

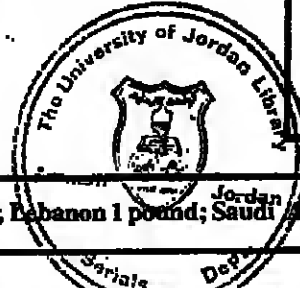
## Iran says 21 killed in Iraqi attack

TEHRAN (R) — Iran said Monday that 21 people were killed and 108 injured in Sunday's Iraqi missile attack on the western Iranian town of Masjed Soleyman, 100 kilometres from the Gulf war front. The figures were given in a military communiqué carried by the national news agency IRNA. The attack came as a delegation from the International Committee of the Red Cross was visiting Iranian cities damaged during the 39-month-old Gulf war. IRNA said the delegation visited Ramhormuz and Behbahan, towns far from the battlefield which had been hit by Iraqi missiles in the past two weeks. Iraq said the Masjed Soleyman attack was in retaliation for Iranian shelling of Iraqi bordertowns.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية "الرأي"



## Kreisky to pay surprise visit to Libya

SALZBURG, Austria (R) — Former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky will pay a surprise visit to Libya later Monday for talks with its leader Muammar Qadhafi, informed sources said. Dr. Kreisky, a socialist who governed Austria from 1970 until last April, will discuss Middle East questions with Colonel Qadhafi, the sources said. The 72-year-old former chancellor sought during his period in office to play a mediating role in Middle East politics and in March 1982 caused an uproar by receiving Col. Qadhafi in Vienna. Dr. Kreisky is expected to fly from Salzburg on the private jet of Austrian motor-racing star Niki Lauda. He would arrive in Libya later Monday night and stay at least one day, the sources said.

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## Hebron curfew continues for 5th day

AMMAN (J.T.) — A curfew imposed on the Casbah area of Hebron continued for the fifth day Monday, reports reaching here from the Israeli-occupied territories said. The curfew was imposed Thursday after a hand grenade was thrown at a Jewish settlement bordering the town.

## Israeli soldier wounded in Lebanon

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli soldier was wounded Monday in a grenade attack on an Israeli patrol near Nabatieh in South Lebanon, a military spokesman said. Unidentified attackers threw two grenades at the patrol, he said. There have been almost daily attacks on Israeli forces in South Lebanon recently. A soldier was wounded Sunday in a grenade attack in Sidon. Israeli casualties, since the June 1982 invasion total 560 soldiers killed and 3,188 wounded, according to official figures.

## Yugoslav minister makes stop-over

AMMAN (J.T.) — Yugoslav Foreign Minister Lazar Mojsov Monday made a brief stop-over at the Queen Alia International Airport on his way from Kuwait to Belgrade. The acting general secretary at the Foreign Ministry met Mr. Mojsov at the airport.

## Saudi crown prince meets Iraqi president

BAGHDAD (R) — Saudi Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz met Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and other Iraqi officials here Sunday night, Iraqi newspapers reported Monday. The papers said Arab issues and bilateral relations were discussed but gave no further details.

## Bignone banned from leaving Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Former President Reynaldo Bignone has been forbidden to leave Argentina by a federal judge investigating the disappearance of a civilian under military rule. Judge Luis Cordoba imposed the ban Sunday on Mr. Bignone and about 20 military and police officers as part of his inquiry into the disappearance in November 1978 of Alfredo Giorgi, a technician with the National Institute of Industrial Technology.

## Morocco sends OIC invitations

RABAT (R) — Morocco's King Hassan II has sent Transport Minister Mansouri Benali to deliver invitations to an Islamic summit to the heads of state of Algeria, Libya, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey, officials said Monday. Mr. Benali, the fifth envoy sent to deliver invitations to the summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) scheduled for Casablanca next month, left Rabat Sunday, they said.

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# Jordan-Egypt contacts aim at foiling Zionist designs, Badran says

By Lamis K. Andoni  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan has maintained contacts with Egypt to counter Zionist political pressures, Prime Minister Mudar Badran said Monday.

Mr. Badran, who was speaking at a regular session of the National Consultative Council (NCC), said that "Jordan's position towards Egypt is based on the fact that negative policies towards the new Egyptian leadership (of President Hosni Mubarak), which has adopted a different approach towards the Middle East conflict, would have left Egypt vulnerable against Zionist political pressures."

The prime minister was replying to questions by a number of NCC members on the Jordanian government's position towards Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's visit to Cairo last Thursday.

Mr. Badran said that it is not the appropriate time to criticise or discuss the visit because details about the development have not been released yet. "The PLO chairman is the only person who can judge and evaluate the consequences and the benefits of his visit to Cairo," he said.

Mr. Arafat's visit to Egypt and his meeting with President Mubarak ended six years of severed PLO-Egyptian relations caused by the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's visit to the Israeli-occupied Jerusalem in 1977 and the separate peace treaty that followed it. The Arafat-Mubarak meeting has drawn severe criticism from radical Arab states.

and Palestinian dissidents opposed to Mr. Arafat.

Mr. Badran asserted that Jordan will not be influenced at all by denunciations of the PLO chairman's talks with the Egyptian president. "After all we do not know the motivations and even the pressures behind these antagonistic positions towards Mr. Arafat's visit to Cairo," he said, in an apparent reference to the fact that four of the eight PLO factions are based in Damascus and their criticism of Mr. Arafat could have been motivated by the Syrian government's pressure.

Jordan's position towards Egypt, the prime minister explained, emanates from its concern to serve the Arab cause and to bring back Egypt to the Arab fold.

"This position has been reiterated by His Majesty King Hussein during the Fez Arab summit in 1982 and was reflected in the King's meeting with Mr. Mubarak during the Non-Aligned Movement's summit (in New Delhi) earlier this year," he said.

A debate on Mr. Arafat's visit in which NCC members requested the cabinet to issue a statement on Jordan's position towards the development proceeded the prime minister's speech.

NCC member Amin Shukry said that the government's silence that followed Mr. Arafat's visit.

and the way the news was presented in the Jordanian media indicated "an endorsement of the pro-Camp David line that the PLO leadership seems to have intentions to follow."

Mr. Shukry said that the silence might also reflect that the Jordanian government does not have a position on the subject. But Mr. Badran, who expressed surprise at the member's speech, rejected the accusation and asserted that Jordan does have an opinion.

Other members who spoke on the subject also disagreed with Mr. Shukry and said that it is premature for the government to come out with a clear position as long as details and consequences of Mr. Arafat's step are not clear. This view was strongly advocated and endorsed by members Hani Abu Hijleh, Mamdouh Abadi and Taher Hikmat. Mr. Hikmat urged the council to stop discussions on the subject.

During the debate, both Mr. Abu Hijleh and Dr. Faisal Kan'an, who supported the step taken by Mr. Arafat, expressed the view that it did not constitute a drastic turn in the political course of the PLO. "The PLO has accepted the principle of a settlement through peace means" when it endorsed the Fez peace plan after the withdrawal of PLO troops from Beirut," they said.

Dr. Kan'an said that when the PLO accepted the Fez peace plan, it "had actually violated the Palestinian charter." Article Seven of the Fez plan recognises the right of all countries of the area to exist which implies a recognition of Israel, a point that sharply contradicts with the PLO charter which rejects the recognition of Israel.

## Egypt-Israel ties stalemated, Sa'id says

AMMAN (J.T.) — Israel's aggressive policy towards Lebanon, the massacres in Sabra and Shatila Palestinian refugee camps last year, the Israeli settlement drive in the occupied territories and its attitude towards the dispute with Egypt on Tabia Strip have had their negative impact on the Jewish states relations with Egypt, a senior Egyptian minister said Sunday.

As a result of the Israeli policy, Egyptian Minister of Economy and Trade Mustapha Kamel Sa'id said, Egyptian-Israeli trade relations are stalemated.

Dr. Sa'id, who left Jordan Sunday after a six-day visit during which he held talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and senior Jordanian officials, also said that Egypt is working seriously towards improving trade and economic ties with all Arab countries. Egypt, he said, "is committed to Arab interests and bases its policy and foreign relations on its affiliation to the Arab Nation."

On reports quoting Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat as saying he favours the setting up of a

Cairo-based Palestinian government in exile, Dr. Sa'id said, "a decision in this concern has to be made by the Palestinian leadership itself."

Egypt is determined to support and strengthen the legitimate Palestinian leadership, Dr. Sa'id said, "and hence all decisions Egypt adopts are in compliance with this fact and are in line with the declared Egyptian positions."

Egypt to open labour affairs office in Amman early January, page 3

## Israel reiterates rejection of Reagan plan

TEL AVIV (R) — Last week's meeting between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and PLO leader Yasser Arafat would do nothing to advance the Reagan peace plan, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said in an interview published Monday.

"The American administration is mistaken if it thinks there is a chance the Arafat-Mubarak meeting will advance the Reagan

plan," Mr. Shamir told the Yedioth Achronoth newspaper.

The Reagan plan, introduced in September 1982, calls for Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in association with Jordan.

Israel rejected the plan immediately and Mr. Shamir said he had emphasised the Israeli position during a visit to Washington last month.

He repeated Israel's opposition to negotiating with Mr. Arafat and the PLO and said no solution could be achieved in the Middle East "without negotiations with Israel or without its agreement."

Mr. Shamir said Israel's anger over U.S. support for the Mubarak-Arafat meeting would not interfere with strategic cooperation agreed upon last month between the two countries.

## Jackson to visit Syria seeking pilot's release

CHICAGO (R) — Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson says he has accepted an invitation from the Syrian government to visit Damascus to discuss the release of a captured U.S. navy pilot.

Mr. Jackson said in a statement released Sunday the invitation came after he sent the Syrian government a telegram requesting the release of Lieutenant Robert Goodman, a flier shot down over Syrian positions in Lebanon on Dec. 4.

The invitation was made by the Syrian ambassador to Washington, Rafic Jouejati.

Syria has threatened to hold Lt. Goodman until American forces are removed from Lebanon.

"We are involved in an undeclared, unauthorized war and we need to move to the negotiating table away from the battlefield," Mr. Jackson, a Baptist minister, will leave for Syria on Wednesday and arrive on Thursday by way of Athens, according to an aide, who said the candidate would receive a briefing from the State Department before he departs.

The aide said Mr. Jackson would be accompanied by other American clergymen of various faiths.

A State Department spokesman in Washington declined comment on the invitation.

Jackson urges withdrawal of Marines from Lebanon, page 4

## Andropov absent from top-level Soviet meeting

MOSCOW (R) — Ailing Soviet President Yuri Andropov failed to attend a meeting of the Communist Party Central Committee Monday, fuelling rumours that serious illness may force him to step down in the near future.

The official news agency TASS said a report by Mr. Andropov was read out to the plenum.

Senior western diplomats said Mr. Andropov's failure to attend Monday's meeting suggested he might also not attend Wednesday's session of the Supreme Soviet, the country's parliament of which Mr. Andropov is president. "This must raise very con-



Prime Minister Mudar Badran (left) addresses the regular session of the National Consultative Council Monday (photo by Yousef Al-Ahmad)

## Regent calls for citizens' participation in shouldering national responsibilities

IRBID (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Monday that "the challenges facing us and the need to contain threats require full participation by the community in shouldering responsibilities."

In a speech at Yarmouk University, Prince Hassan said His Majesty King Hussein's call for restoring parliamentary life in Jordan does not confine public participation in political life but exceed that to public involvement in development, education and developing agriculture and the use

of farming land on scientific basis. The Regent urged protection of farming land, an end to migration to cities by great number of citizens from rural areas and called for demographic redistribution in the country.

"The economic difficulties currently facing Jordan should not divert us from our basic goal of employing man and land in a balanced way," he said, pointing out that a new formula is being applied for demographic distribution based on developing areas far from Amman.

Prince Hassan said that Arab countries are increasingly giving priority to their "narrow individual interests, and refraining from shouldering their responsibilities, which is counterposed on the other side by a planned expansionist sweep by the Zionist enemy."

"This sweep cannot be confronted and halted unless our citizen clings to his national commitment and soil," the Regent added.

Prince Hassan meets Irbid municipal council members, page 3

## Arafat arrives in N. Yemen

SANA'A (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and more than 1,000 of his fighters received a warm welcome Monday when they arrived at Hodeida on a ship which evacuated them from Lebanon, the Yemeni News Agency said.

Mr. Arafat reached the North Yemeni Red Sea port four days after meeting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo for talks which caused an uproar in radical Arab states and among Palestinian dissidents.

The Saudi Press Agency said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader later went to Sana'a, 240 kilometres from Hodeida, to meet North Yemeni

President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Palestinian sources said that Mr. Arafat, who left the north Lebanon port of Tripoli on Tuesday after being besieged for six weeks by Syrian-backed PLO dissidents, would chair a meeting of the PLO's Military Committee Tuesday.

Mr. Arafat is expected to explain the outcome of his talks with Mr. Mubarak, head of the only Arab state to sign a treaty with Israel, they said.

In Cairo, the Middle East News Agency (MENAI) reported from Sana'a that Mr. Arafat had proposed radical changes in the Palestinian approach to the Middle East problem.

The sources said a number of prominent Palestinian military leaders had arrived in Sana'a from Tunis for consultations with Mr. Arafat.

Meanwhile, PLO deputy commander Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad), accompanied by the rest of the Palestinian fighters evacuated from Tripoli arrived in Algeria.

A total of about 4,000 fighters and their families were evacuated from north Lebanon. Some 500 of the fighters went to Iraq and the rest to Tunis and North Yemen. The Greek ship which carried Abu Jihad and the fighters also made a stop in the Tunisian port of Benzer where some of the forces disembarked.

## Jordan, Egypt sign protocol

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Egypt have signed a new protocol aimed at reviving economic ties between the two countries.

"It signifies the resumption of trade, economic and financial relations between our two countries," Egyptian Economy and Trade Minister Mustapha Kamel Sa'id declared after signing the document on Sunday.

Trade and Industry Minister Walid Asfour, who signed for Jordan, said "Egyptians are welcome in Jordan any time."

The protocol is the first to be concluded since 1978, before Jordan and most other Arab governments imposed an economic and political boycott on Egypt for signing a separate peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

The two ministers made no reference to the boycott in their brief speeches, although Sa'id had earlier told reporters the signing of

the protocol would mark the end of Jordan's boycott of Egypt.

They also agreed to hold talks on opening a credit line to aid trade and economic exchange and to give Jordanians 51 per cent equity in the Egyptian Arab Land Bank which operates in Jordan, he said.

The protocol provides for duty-free exchange of national products between the two countries, on condition that they are supported by certificates of origin issued by related government departments on both sides, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra said.

Products exchanged between the two countries are to be treated

as local products with regard to consumer tax and production fees applied to them, according to the agreement. It also calls for extending support for trade centres in both countries and organising fairs and exhibitions for introducing each country's products to the consumer in the other.

A joint Jordanian-Egyptian committee will hold annual meetings in Amman and Cairo alternatively to follow up the implementation of the protocol and sort out and solve problems that might obstruct its progress. The protocol will be considered holding on a yearly basis and is renewed automatically unless either party calls for its termination.

## Heavy fighting in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Shi'ite Muslim militiamen battled against the Lebanese army in Beirut suburbs Monday in some of the heaviest fighting Lebanon has seen since the June 1982 Israeli invasion, military sources said.

Shells and rockets fired by militias in hills east of Beirut slammed into several sectors of the capital and its suburbs as fighting between the army and Shi'ite gunmen spread from the Palestinian refugee camp of Shatila, flash-point of the clashes which erupted on Saturday night.

State-run Beirut Radio said four people were killed and nine wounded in Monday's fighting, bringing the toll in three days of fighting to 24 dead and over 40 wounded.

Military sources said the militias appeared to be massing troops on the eastern fringe of the battle zone.

Italian troops, who patrol the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila, were pinned down unable to move because of the intensity of the fighting, an Italian spokesman said.

Four Italian soldiers of the Multi-National Force (MNF) were wounded by shrapnel on Sunday before a short-lived ceasefire came into effect.

Motorists sounding horns and pedestrians hurried to safety as the sound of explosions reverberated through the city.

Some shells crashed into the mainly Christian neighbourhood of Ashrafieh and the mid-city line near the museum.

At the airport, sources said one shell landed near the western runway and the main airport road was shelled. Planes were still taking off though most passengers failed to turn up because of the hazardous journey to the airport.

Residents in mainly Shi'ite slum neighbourhoods in the southern suburbs huddled in basements, caught in the crossfire of rocket-propelled grenades, mortars and machine-guns.

The southern suburbs are a stronghold of the Shi'ite Muslim "Amal" (hope) militia headed by Nabih Berri but other private armies such as the Communist militia and Islamic fundamentalists also operate there.

An Amal statement said it had nothing to do with the clashes.

Fighting erupted on Saturday when the Lebanese army took over two positions in Shatila vacated by French units of the MNF. Italian military sources said Monday the army still held the posts.

The Lebanese army reimposed control over the greater Beirut area last September but did not attempt to force its way into the southern suburbs.

The Shi'ites are determined not to allow the army into Shatila and tighten its cordon around the suburbs.

An Italian spokesman said his troops briefly held the two positions but later handed them over to the Lebanese army because they were outside the Italian zone.

## South Africa warns Angola

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's state-controlled radio warned Angola Monday that a confrontation with Pretoria's forces would amount to self-destruction.

The South African defence force said on Friday that Angolan troops had killed five of its soldiers during an operation in southern Angola against South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) guerrillas.

SWAPO has been fighting a sporadic bush war for 17 years against South Africa.

Related stories on page 8

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## MIDDLE EAST

Christmas pays  
Bethlehem a visit

**BETHLEHEM, Occupied West Bank (R) —** The Latin patriarch returned to his See in Jerusalem, pilgrims said a final prayer at shepherds field, and local residents reclaimed their town Sunday as Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem drew to a close.

The hundreds of Israeli police who stood sniper guard on rooftops and patrolled the streets in full battle dress were nowhere to be seen as the remaining tourists visited the medieval Church of the Nativity and snacked in the winter sunshine.

Just after dawn workers cleared manger square of bottles and Christmas tinsel left by thousands of pilgrims who listened to the traditional midnight mass and the square resumed its normal mundane function as a parking lot.

Security was tight inside the austere St. Catherine's church where some 1,500 pilgrims listened to the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Monsignor Giacomo Beltrini, conduct the midnight mass.

He then said a special prayer at the candle-lit grotto of the nativity, where tradition says Mary gave birth to Jesus.

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, originally worried that there would be a small turnout this year, said this was "a wonderful Christmas".

The tourism ministry said some 12,000 pilgrims came to Bet-

lehem, up 50 per cent on last year.

At a reception, Mr. Freij told Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens that now was the time for pilgrims, Palestinians, and Jordanians to open talks on the future of the occupied territories.

Speaking in Arabic, Mayor Elias Freij said the Palestinians had lived on the West Bank for generations and deserved their own identity.

Mr. Arens, who received a whispered translation of Mr. Freij's remarks as the mayor spoke, responded by telling local dignitaries at the reception that he and Freij did not always agree on politics.

"I am sure you will not be surprised if I tell you that when I Freij and I talk politics, there are some things we agree on and there are many things that we don't agree on," he said.

Mr. Arens added that any disagreements had to be solved by "discussion, goodwill and trying to understand one another".

Mr. Arens said he hoped his presence was an omen of improvement in relations between Christians, Muslims and Jews.

Iran takes action as  
expelled diplomats arrive

**TEHRAN (R) —** Three Iranian diplomats expelled from France arrived home Monday protesting about their treatment by French authorities, the national news agency IRNA reported.

Iran Sunday retaliated for the expulsions by giving three French embassy staff 24 hours to leave the country. The embassy has declined comment on the move and it is not clear who the three staff are or when they will leave Tehran.

The agency quoted one of the expelled Iranian diplomats, First Secretary Mohammad Ali Dashti, as saying French police had detained him and another diplomat and searched their briefcases in violation of diplomatic regulations.

It quoted another diplomat, whom it did not name, as saying France had spread "false allegations that a so-called terrorist group had arrived from Iran to commit massacres and thus blur Christmas festivities".

Relations between Tehran and Paris have been near breaking point for months because of French support for Iraq against Iran in the 30-month-old Gulf war.

Since July, Iran has closed a French government commercial office, a language teaching school and an archaeological institute.

France replied with Friday's decision to close an Islamic cul-

tural centre in Paris and expel the three Iranians.

The French external relations ministry said France intends replacing three of its diplomats who have been served expulsion orders by the authorities in Tehran.

A spokesman said France saw no link between the Iranian government's action and last week's French decision to close the Iranian Islamic centre in Paris and order 15 Iranian officials to leave.

Meanwhile, a man telephoned a Western news agency in Tehran claiming to speak for an Armenian guerrilla group. He made a vaguely-worded threat against French interests.

The man, saying he represented the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA), protested that four Armenians, arrested after the Turkish embassy in Paris was occupied briefly in 1981, had recently been put in solitary confinement.

"If the French regime by these terrorist means or in any other way helps Turkish fascism, we will make it understood what disaster they will face," he said.

In July and August, another Armenian guerrilla organisation, the Orly group, claimed responsibility for a series of bomb attacks on French targets in Tehran.

## 'We are moving on,' State Department says

Following is the transcript of a senior U.S. State Department official's background briefing entitled "Yesterday, the Middle East — a year in review," at the Washington Foreign Press Centre.

## Very hard job

The topic is a year-end review of the Middle East.

Since the time is limited, on the initial go-around, I would like to limit each journalist to one question and one follow-up, to begin.

Question: Rafael Khalis, Kuwait news agency, KUNA.

Last year, like now, we were talking with enthusiasm about the Reagan plan, how it was still alive and kicking and etcetera. We know what has happened in between, so many things, so many setbacks. If you were to look — put yourself in December of next year, where would you see the United States initiatives would be heading? How much would you have hoped to accomplish in Lebanon, and in other parts, knowing the difficulties that we are facing right now?

Answer: Well, last year at this time the Reagan plan was not only alive and kicking, but it was just born. So it should have been kicking.

Next year, I think we should be able to look ahead to progress in Lebanon, progress on the — progress having been achieved in Lebanon and having been achieved towards the Reagan plan.

As you know, the president has always said that this was a plan that was not set in concrete.

It was a set — it was our position and it was the best position he felt could be devised. The most realistic, practical programme, for a diplomatic strategy in the Near East. And frankly, we've seen nothing come over the horizon in the area from any other source since Sept. 1, 1982. That came near to the Reagan plan as a practical programme for moving all of the parties ahead.

Some plans offered, perhaps, greater apparent openings and promises of gains to some of the parties. But our attitude is that you've got to find a programme, develop a programme, that while it's always going to fall short of the aspirations of any single party, does offer a balanced programme for progress.

Specifically on Lebanon, when I studied in — first studied the Arabic language many years ago I was told that one of the sayings in the Koran was that the age of prophecy has ended, and it's been a wisdom that I've tried to remember ever since.

I would go a little bit out on the limb that a condition of such great volatility and instability should not be tolerated by the Lebanese.

by their neighbours, or by powers outside of the area. It need not be tolerated, and something can be done about it, to lower the temperature in Lebanon and to get the different factions working together, to get more than effective working relationships with the immediate neighbours, Syria and Israel, in order to help that country pick itself up out of the debris

and rubble of the civil war, and take the first steps towards restoring national unity.

It's going to be a very hard job. We have no, I can assure you, no unreasonable expectations. But a year from now I personally am confident that it's going to be a situation of greater calm, that we will have moved towards better understanding, seen better understanding both within Lebanon and between Lebanon and its neighbours.

Question: To be more specific, do you have any reason to believe as a result of the discussions that the special envoy, Mr. Rumsfeld, held in Damascus, that there is a change in the Syrian position? We are led to believe otherwise, seeing as there is no reconvening of the Geneva conference for reconciliation, and it appears that they still adhere to the May 17th agreement. In fact, there are comments coming out of Damascus that indicate that the situation is further complicated by the recent Israeli-U.S. strategic accord.

Is there any basis for a change, as far as your information is concerned?

Answer: Well, you caught my attention when you said that Syria still adheres to the May 17th agreement. Would that were true by the end of next year we'd be in very great shape.

Specifically on reconvening Geneva, Geneva Two, whatever, I think we have to be careful not to assume that there was a set date which has now been set aside. I know there was a lot of talk, about a week ago, 11 days ago, that there would be Geneva Two just before Christmas, I think that date was — a date was discussed in that timeframe. But there never was any agreement among any of the parties to hold it at that particular time on the calendar. I think some of the Lebanese participants, for purely personal reasons, just found that was not the time they wanted to be outside of the country.

So, while we do not have, yet, a specific date, the best date we know is that the three foreign ministers would meet again after the new year. So, it's not as if there was a conference built up which collapsed or — because it just hadn't reached that point in time. They're still negotiating on dates.

I'm sorry, the other part of our question?

Question: The Syrian position. Answer: Well, I don't want to characterise ambassador Rumsfeld's talks in Damascus, or really, in any of the capitals. I don't think that that is going to be helpful to his mission. He has a strong pledge of confidentiality in each of his talks. So, it really isn't for me to lift the veil there.

This was his second trip to Damascus. It did provide the occasion for extensive meetings with the foreign minister of Syria, Mr. Khaddam, and the occasion to lay out on both sides all of the con-

cerns, all of the pieces of the puzzle, if you will, that is the problem of Lebanon today.

Question: Uzi Benjamin, Ha'aretz daily, Tel Aviv.

Could you give us, please, some idea what you consider, you in the administration, as a total collapse in Lebanon that is one of the conditions the president mentioned for the withdrawal of the Marines? Yesterday the White House spokesman mentioned the failure of broadening the government would be considered as a total collapse. Is it really the idea of the administration?

Answer: Yes, I'm aware of the exchange at the White House yesterday, and it may well be that this question is treated at the White House again today. We'll see.

If you read the way particularly the Post, I think it was, developed the story, you started with the statement that a lack of progress on national reconciliation would equal collapse, which would equal the need to pull out the Marines. Then it was clarified that this was a judgmental question and basically we look to the president's statement of December 14th at his press conference as the guidelines there.

The president used the word "collapse" as he said himself, in a hypothetical situation. If there were — and I don't have the exact words, but — if there were a total collapse, and there were no order whatsoever, something like that, then there would be no point in having the Marines there.

But he underlined two or three times that was a very carefully — about three subjective verbs in the same sentence — so no, the administration does not equate a failure at national reconciliation with the need to withdraw the Marines from Lebanon.

Question: Samir Kharam, El Khafar of Lebanon.

Answer: During the whole year of '83, in order to be confined to the framework of the background, let me say during the first 10 months of the '83 year, Lebanon had been in the eye of the storm. Now during the last two months Syria is being very much in the eye of the storm, without Lebanon gaining any progress towards peace or towards reconciliation.

What are your expectations for '84? There are some people who believe that maybe some other Arab country will be the eye of the storm in the coming year, and Jordan is very much a possibility for that.

Answer: I'm not quite sure what you mean, sir, by being in the eye — that Syria is now in the eye of the storm instead of Lebanon. I mean Lebanon has —

Question: Not necessarily. I said without Lebanon gaining any progress in its crisis. Syria is being in the focus now as the main problem for the United States in the Middle East.

Answer: Well, the main problem for the United States in the Middle East is not Syria. It's the re-activation of the peace process. You know, again, as you say, "let's pull back and talk about the year

'83," and heaven knows, long before that, the administration has had three main goals in the Middle East: The goal of a just and comprehensive peace, which will take into account the legitimate rights, and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people as well as Israel's right to exist behind secure and defensible borders; Defence of the region against direct Soviet aggression or Soviet subversion; And I'd say the continuing development of economic ties between various states of the region and the United States.

The problem of Lebanon which has gripped us all very, very much, and you as representing your paper and coming from that country, I think, can appreciate living here in Washington what amount of focus has been placed on Lebanon by the administration, we place that focus in an effort to lower the temperature so that we can get to the real problem of the Middle East, which is the peace process and how to work out the question of secure and defensible borders and the solution of the Palestinian question.

I don't think anyone works with the idea that the problems of Lebanon are solvable within the borders of Lebanon. That's why we do try to pursue a strategy which touches bases in all of the regional capitals and attempts to coordinate and orchestrate our efforts with those who are seriously interested in moving towards peace.

So — but moving to Jordan, again connection — what was your question about Jordan?

Question: What I had in mind with my question was that Jordan may play, in the next months to come, a role that's expected by this administration to have the mandate of the Palestinians and other Arab countries, or maybe Jordan will be a victim of another aggression by the Israelis in order to put an end to the Palestinian problem on the West Bank.

Two possibilities

There are two possibilities. How do you see things to come, if I may ask?

Answer: Well, it's been our hope, a hope that was certainly set back last April, a hope that a way could be found between King Hussein and chairman Arafat to allow the king to move forward into the peace process, representing, with credible Palestinian support, that entire aspect of the peace process. We feel that they came very close to an understanding in April and it was a source of very great disappointment to us and to many, both in the area and in other countries. I know particularly in Europe, that those talks foundered when the chairman could not get the backing of the Fateh and the central — or his executive committee.

The king also, of course, had always made explicit his need for backing from the moderate states as well as from the PLO. In the event he didn't feel he had the backing by them to move ahead.

Question: Usama Salda, Kabetz, Saudi Arabia.

Answer: At the end of this year it seems to me that all you are able to do is to express hopes for the new year.

Answer: Well, this is the season everybody's supposed to express hope, at this time of year.

Question: Well, apart from the holiday spirit, realistically speaking, what can the president do in an election year, except probably to pull the Marines out of Lebanon?

Answer: The president has got thousands of things he's going to do during an election year.

There is a conviction, sir, and it's altogether too easily made that about Nov. 7th of the year before the actual election all sensible and awkward, rather awkward, diplomatic issues have to be avoided because the president can't face an electorate in a controversial period, where prestige is involved, where if he is perceived to be losing it's going to cost him votes at the convention, later at the polls.

It just isn't the case, I think Shultz, when he made that speech in Atlanta about five weeks ago, made the comment about — that whoever said that pursuit of peace is bad politics, or something like that. Pursuit of peace is going to get you into controversy, and God knows, in the Near East it gets you into more controversy than most any other place in the world.

But there is no slackening of energy or of the various individuals engaged in the administration, or of the administration as a whole, in trying to activate the gameplan, the peace process, which is — was summed up in the Reagan initiatives.

We can't do by ourselves, the autonomy talks, for instance, with Egypt, Israel, and the United States, had effectively run their course. There has to be further Arab negotiator at the table, and the way has to be found to help create the conditions in which that negotiator can step forward.

But with all of the problems and the controversies that surround the peace process, I really can assure you there's no concern in the White House that that is risky politics, and that they should just rest — we should all just rest on our oars here, throughout the coming 11 months until the election is safely past.

Basically there is a reality out there. It can't last like it. We've all noticed, watched, Lebanon slide further and further into a crisis situation and a chaotic situation. You can't just walk away from — we know we can't just walk away from the problem, be it of Lebanon or the more general Middle East situation.

Question: A follow-up. All this talk about an Arab negotiator, a further Arab negotiator, but it seems to be that the Arabs are now alienated by this new special relationship between the United States and King Hussein?

Last week he expressed his doubt that he would be coming to negotiations.

Answer: As I said, that's a question that the king is going to be answering himself. Looking at the map, it's hard to imagine anyone else stepping forward. But that's a simple lesson in geography.

Let me just comment, though, on the other — your point about "because of the new special relationship". I think ever since I first came into contact with Near Eastern affairs, the term "special relationship" was applied to the Israeli-U.S. relationship, and that goes back — my first contact was '58. It goes back to the founding of the state of Israel.

It is not a new special relationship. It's a very close one, an intimate one. It has aspects to it that we share and we work on with other countries in the area, with several Arab countries, and we are working for the closest relationships between Washington and the moderate Arab countries.

The point that was very much emphasised during the time of the visit of the prime minister of Israel is that.

So it's not a brand new relationship in any sense of the word.

Shamir's visit

Question: Wolf Blitzer of the Jerusalem Post.

Shamir's visit? What specific changes, if any, have taken place in the U.S.-Israeli relationship that you see as an outgrowth of all the talk of a closer strategic cooperation, and what further changes would you anticipate in the immediate weeks ahead?

Answer: I think what caught attention, particularly during the visit, was the decision to set up the joint political-military group. That group will meet; has not met, its members on both sides are now established, and that will meet, we're looking at mid-January. It's in that context that discussions will be carried out a little more structured, a little more formalised discussions, about the U.S.-Israeli — about U.S.-Israeli cooperation.

We've had continuing talks with the government of Israel about the situation in Lebanon, about the situation in Syria as regards the Soviet input of weaponry in Syria. We don't want to, either, having read certain press notices in the Jerusalem press, I don't want to go down either as saying there's nothing new, or there's everything new. It's kind of a fine line in there.

The newness is the structure, which will come into play in the talks in January. Those talks — and that will be a forum such as we have with, certainly aspect of it, with certain Arab countries. Like if it's going to discuss military exercises, we have military exercises today with Egypt. We've had them for the last two years, I believe. Bright Star.

We have semi-annual discussions on military supply issues with Saudi Arabia and with Jordan. This will be an attempt to

(Continued on page 3)

## TV &amp; RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION		23:00	News Headlines
MAIN CHANNEL		23:05	Evening Show
		BBC WORLD SERVICE	
		634, 720, 1413 KHz	
17:30	Koran	06:00	Newspack 06:30 Breakthrough
17:45	Cartoons	06:45	Interlude 06:45 Reflections 07:00
18:10	Children's Programme	07:00	World News 07:00 24 Hours News
18:25	Documentary	07:30	Newspack 07:30 Newsweek Nights 07:45
18:50	Programme Review	08:00	A Lift in the Rain 08:00 Venned 08:30
19:10	Programme on Sport	08:30	Cought in the Act 08:30 World News
20:20	News in Arabic	09:00	24 Hours News Summary 09:30
20:30	Arabic Series		The Cambridge Buskers 09:45 Network
21:20	Local Programme	U.K.	10:00 World News 10:00 Reflection
22:10	Local Programme from the Jerash Festival	10:15	Plaster 10:30 Motive for Murder
23:10	News in Arabic	11:00	World News 11:00 British
		Press Review 11:15 A Knocking in the	Skull 11:45 Alexis Korner's Rhythm
		and Blues 12:00 Discovery 12:30 Musical	Milestones 12:45 World News
		13:00 News about Britain 13:15	13:00 News about Britain 13:15
		from London 13:25 Scotland This Week	13:30 Sports International 14:00 Radio
		14:00 News 14:15 Modern English Poetry	14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World
		15:00 News 15:24 Hours News Summary	15:30 The Painter of Signs 15:45 A Jolly
		Good Show 16:30 Sherlock Holmes	17:00 Radio Newspaper 17:15 To Fly
		Where the Sun Never Sets 18:00 World	News 18:00 Consumer
		Special 18:45 The World Today 19:00	World News 19:00 Meridian 19:40 Scotland
		This Week 19:45 Sports Round-up	20:00 World News 20:30 Nature
		20:00 The Farming World 21:00	On the Canals 21:30 The World
		21:45 Kings of Jazz 22:00 World	News 22:00 24 Hours News Summary
		22:30 Alexis Korner's Rhythm and	Blues 22:45 Modern Russian Writers
		23:00 Choice 23:15 London's Concert	Tradition 24:00 World News 00:00 The
		World Today 00:25 Scotland This Week	00:30 New Ideas 00:40 Reflections 00:45
		Sports Round-up 01:00 World News	01:15 Welcome Yule Part 1
		VOICE OF AMERICA	
		MW 1260, SW 7200, 9565, 11740,	
		11725 and 15210 KHz	
06:00	VOA Morning: News on the hour: news summaries; daily business report, science and medicine, sports reports; VOA editorial and world and U.S. news roundups; documentary, viewpoints, feature stories.		

## WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	
1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Closed Tuesdays, Tel. 30128.
Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum)	Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916.
Sports City, Amman	Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays, Tel. 364240.
Popular Life of Jordan Museum	100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc.
Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Closed Tuesdays, Tel. 37169.
EXHIBITION	
* Orientalist paintings, at the Alia Art Gallery.	
ABC NEWS	
* At the American Centre at 4:00 and 7:00 p.m.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 6610267	
American Centre Library, 41520	
British Council, 36147-8	
French Cultural Centre, 37099	
Goethe Institute, 41993	
Soviet Cultural Centre, 44203	
Spanish Cultural Centre, 24049	
Turkish Cultural Centre, 39777	
Hays Arts Centre, 665195	
Hussein Youth City, 41793	
Y.W.C.A., 664251	
Amman Municipal Library, 36111	
University of Jordan Library, 843555	
MUSEUMS	
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round, Tel. 51760.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Gaf (Chapel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays) (10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays).	
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary L. artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Lurewibdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	
CHURCHES	
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 24590.	
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lurewibdeh, 37400.	
De la Soie Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lurewibdeh, 661757.	
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdal, 23541.	
Anglican Church (Church of the Redemptor) Jabal Amman, 41594.	
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 75261.	
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 71751.	
PRAYER TIMES	
06:00 Fajr	
06:30 Sunrise	
12:30 Dhuhur	
14:30 Asr	
16:30 Maghrib	
18:00 Isha	

## FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 33250, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
07:00 Cairo (EAI)	
07:05 Baghdad (RI)	
07:10 Jeddah (RI)	
07:15 Doha, Kuwait (RI)	
07:20 Cairo (RI)	
07:25 Damascus (RI)	
07:30 Doha, Bahrain (RI)	
07:35 Beirut (RI)	
07:40 Doha, Riyadh (Saudi)	
07:45 Kuwait (KAC)	
07:50 Bucharest, Istanbul (RI)	
07:55 Larnaca (RI)	
08:00 New York, Vienna (RI)	
08:05 Frankfurt, Damascus (RI)	
08:10 Beirut (MEA)	
08:15 London, Paris (RI)	
08:20 Tripoli (RI)	
08:25 Cairo (EAI)	
08:30 Athens (OAI)	</



## Christian community celebrates Christmas

AMMAN (Petra) — The Christian community in Jordan Sunday celebrated Christmas. On the occasion, which was confined to holding religious rituals, Roman Catholic Bishop Salim Al Sa'igh said the Holy Church invites us to restore bridges of compassion and peace with God and those around us.

Christ's peace, Bishop Sa'igh said, is first and foremost man's peace with God, which cannot be realised except through refrain from error and return to the virtuous commands of our creator.

Today's world is that of material and industrial advancement, smeared by moralistic deterioration and terrifying rebellion against God's laws and instructions, which leads to a state of emotional instability and continuous yearning

for unattainable peace, the bishop said.

"Christ's genuine peace is that of man's peace with his brothers, which is dependent on his peace with God and His Commandments, teaching us justice, compassion and brotherhood. Those who do not abide by the law of God find it easy to do others injustice, where members of the one family get lost in moral chaos and wars among communities and nations break out," Bishop Sa'igh added.

The Roman Catholic Bishop wished well to all Christians on the occasion, prayed God for peace in the area and protection of the stability enjoyed by the Jordanians under the guidance of His Majesty King Hussein.

## Badran: Agents' names mandatory in local tenders

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran has urged government bodies to ensure that local agents for foreign companies undertaking projects in Jordan, should be specified in all documents for tenders and purchase invoices exceeding JD 1,000.

In a statement issued Sunday, Mr. Badran said that ministries, government departments, public sector institutions and the Armed

Forces have been awarding tenders with high amount to foreign companies without any mention of these companies' local agents' names.

This leads to a great loss of income tax and social service revenues from commissions attained by local agents, and part of which should go to the treasury, the statement said.

## Jordanian, Iraqi ministers discuss educational ties

AMMAN (Petra) — Iraqi minister of education Abdul Qader Ezzeddin Sunday held talks with Minister of Education Dr. Sa'id Al Tal, during his stopover at Queen Alia International Airport, on ways of strengthening cultural and educational relations between the two countries.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Mr. Ezzeddin, who was on his way back to Baghdad from Tunisia, described the relations between the two countries in all fields as excellent and affirmed that educational and

cultural relations between Jordan and Iraq are of an outstanding importance.

He also praised Jordan's national and true stands to support Iraq in its just war against Iran. "There are continuous contacts and co-ordination between the Ministries of Education in the two countries in international conferences and forums, Mr. Ezzeddin added.

The Iraqi minister was received at the airport by Dr. Tal, senior ministry officials and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

## Ministry bans surveys

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Interior has issued a statement prohibiting companies, institutions and other organisations to conduct statistical surveys for obtaining information of any sort.

This is the exclusive work of the Department of Statistics, the statement said. Adding that the org-

anisations wishing to conduct surveys should first obtain approval of the Department of Statistics.

The public is advised not to give away any information to teams conducting surveys unless the team's members bear special cards issued to them by the Department of Statistics, the statement said.

## Professional translator wanted

The Jordan Times requires a part-time Arabic to English translator to do afternoon and early evening shifts. Translations mainly cover local news and advertisements. Salary commensurate with experience and efficiency. For appointments please call Elia Nasrallah, Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday afternoons until 9 p.m. Tel: 666320/666265 Amman.

## Chinese team visits Queen Alia Heart Institute

AMMAN (Petra) — The visiting Chinese medical team Sunday visited the Queen Alia Heart Institute and were briefed on the services provided by the institute to the patients.

The team expressed their admiration of the high medical level of

the institute. They later paid a visit to the Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Company in Salt and toured its various sections, where they also got acquainted with the drug products, which the company supplies to the local markets and exports the surplus to Arab and African countries.

## Arab Air Cargo Company makes 78 additional flights

BAGHDAD (Petra) — The Arab Air Cargo Co., established in 1981 in cooperation between Jordan and Iraq, Sunday announced that it has made 78 additional flights this year to various parts of the world in addition to its regular flights between Baghdad and Amman.

Director General of the

Amman-based company Salah Hussein said that the company has airfreighted large quantities of cargo on its planes which are hoped to be increased in the near future.

The company, with a capital of JD 20 million, is the first Arab company of its kind in the world, Mr. Hussein added.

## JJA approves 6 new members

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Journalists Association (JJA) board has agreed to accept a number of new journalists as members in the association. The new members are Layla Deeb, Osama El-Sharif, Lamis Andoni, Afifa Kaloti, Issa Al Shawabkeh and Sultan Hattab. The board also decided to meet Wednesday to consider all applications submitted to the association.

## Egypt to operate labour office

CAIRO (J.T.) — An Egyptian labour office is to start operating in Amman early January to organise Egyptian labour in Jordan estimated at 190,000 workers, according to Cairo Radio. Mr. Mohammad Abdul Razzaq has been appointed labour attaché in Jordan and will be arriving in Amman Tuesday. Egypt has labour offices in Kuwait, Iraq, Sudan, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and two offices in Athens and Geneva, Cairo Radio said.



Re-elected Mayor of Irbid Abdul Razzaq Tbeishat (right) Monday introduces Irbid Municipal Council members to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent (Petra photo)

## Regent meets new Irbid officials

IRBID (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday visited Irbid Municipality and met its newly-elected mayor and council members. Irbid Mayor Abdul

Razzaq Tbeishat reviewed before Prince Hassan the needs and requirements of Irbid, and briefed him on the state of public services and future programmes to be implemented in the city.

The meeting was attended by Irbid Governor Mohammad Khalaf Dawoudiah and governorate senior officials.

## Opinion divided on Arafat-Mubarak meeting

AMMAN (R) — Leading Jordanians and Palestinians here were reported Sunday to be divided over Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's meeting in Cairo with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Mr. Arafat's meeting on Thursday with Mr. Mubarak, head of the only Arab state to sign a peace treaty with Israel, caused an uproar in radical Arab states, while most moderate Arab states refrained from immediate comment.

In a series of interviews, Jordan's daily Al Rai' quoted Mr. Suleiman Al Hadidi, president of the Jordanian Lawyers' Syndicate, as saying he opposed the meeting because it encouraged "the Camp David trend."

The U.S.-negotiated Camp

David accords lead to the 1979 peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. All but three Arab League member states later broke ties with Cairo.

But Mr. Jamal Al Shaer, a member of the Jordanian National Consultative Council (parliament), said the meeting was "a new, firm step towards the reinstatement of Egypt in Arab ranks."

Mr. Laith Shbailat, president of the Jordanian Engineers' Syndicate, said although he supported Mr. Arafat during the Tripoli clashes, he regarded the Cairo meeting as harmful to the Palestinian cause.

Mr. Arafat and about 4,000 Palestine Liberation Organisation

(PLO) loyalists were evacuated from the northern Lebanese port of Tripoli last Tuesday after they had been besieged by Syrian-backed PLO dissidents for about six weeks.

Mr. Najib Al Ahmad, head of the PLO's Amman office, endorsed the Arafat-Mubarak meeting.

But Mr. Ibrahim Bakr, a member of the Palestine National Council, in-exile, said he was sad at what he called the "escalation of problems" and stressed the need for Palestinian unity.

Another council member, Mr. Abdulaziz Saqr, said he was against unilateral acts, especially in regard to relations with Egypt.

## NCC urges increased aid to W. Bank, Gaza farmers

By Lamis K. Andoni  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The National Consultative Council (NCC) Monday urged the government to increase financial aid to farmers in the Israeli occupied territories to prevent Israeli agricultural products from leaking to the Arab markets.

On its regular session Monday, the council also approved recommendations, submitted by its Agricultural Committee, which has been under discussion during the last three sessions.

During the debate, the NCC members discussed the negative consequences of the Israeli policies on agriculture in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Hani Abu Hileh pointed out that since the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in 1967, the ratio of irrigated land and the planted area of the fertile land has drastically dropped.

There was also a decline in the ratio of agricultural research and the percentage of Arab labour engaged in agriculture, he said.

Due to the deterioration of conditions in the agricultural sector, in the occupied territories, many Arabs are forced to desert rural areas to work in Israeli factories, according to reports from the occupied territories.

Mr. Abu Hileh said that Israel has built 166 settlements in the occupied territories which cover 45 per cent of agricultural land.

To counter the Israeli threat, Mr. Abu Hileh stressed the need to raise the financial aid to Arab farmers, agricultural engineers and agricultural research in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Abu Hileh was endorsing a recommendation formulated by the council's Agricultural Committee that called on the government to increase financial support for workers in the agricultural sector.

The committee also suggested a co-ordination between production and marketing policies in Jordan and the occupied territories in order to prevent an over production of agricultural products which hurts the interests of the farmers.

The issues of pricing and marketing of agricultural products again raised by the council.

Mr. Amin Shukair, who was speaking on behalf of members Taher Hikmat, Jawdat Shoul, Hisham Al Tal and Issa Al Raymon, protested against the policy of floating the prices of agricultural products.

Mr. Shukair said that floating of

agricultural products' prices does not benefit either the farmers or the consumers. He suggested that the government impose a minimum price for the farmer to sell his product in the middle-men and a maximum price for the traders to sell the product in the market, thus leaving the middle-man a limited margin of profit.

He explained that the minimum and maximum prices should be fixed in a manner that secure a good living for farmers and reasonable prices for consumers and limit the profit made by the middle-men.

In its report, the committee proposed the formation of a comprehensive marketing system to implement a national marketing policy that aims to guarantee minimum and reasonable prices for agricultural products and to benefit farmers and consumers.

The report pointed out a lack of co-ordination in agricultural planning which is impeding agricultural development instead of enhancing it. It recommended the adoption of centralisation in planning and decentralisation in executing the plans.

The committee also called for the formation of a new law, for the Jordanian Agricultural Engineers Association, that measures up to the developments that took place in the agricultural sector during the last years.

The council approved the recommendations, thus ending the debate on agricultural policies. The Agricultural Committee's report was then referred to the government for consideration.

## Sarvath opens Senegalese exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Highness Princess Sarvath deputed for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, in opening the Senegalese art exhibition at the Jordan National Gallery.

Her Highness Princess Wijdan Ali, President of the Royal Jo-

danian Society for Fine Arts, said that the exhibition, which is considered the first African exhibition held in Jordan, comes in a series of international exhibitions held by the gallery with the aim of strengthening cultural ties between Jordan and countries of the world. She added that the exhibition

includes a collection of art works of embroidery crafts by 21 Senegalese artists representing the Senegalese art folklore and some contemporary art works. The opening was attended by a number of invited guests as well as members of the diplomatic corp in Jordan.

## Excavations will help unravel mysteries of the Neolithic period

By Rami G. Khouri  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Nine weeks of excavation earlier this year at the large site of Ain Ghazal, along the northern entrance to Amman, have produced an enormous amount of archaeological material that will help unravel many of the mysteries of mankind's earliest experiments with village development and social organisation in the Neolithic period, about 8,000-9,000 years ago.

The ancient village of Ain Ghazal has been excavated for two consecutive seasons by an international team of archaeologists under the leadership of Dr. Gary Rollefson of Yarmouk University and Dr. Alan Simmons of the University of Kansas. This year's dig was highlighted by the discovery of a spectacular collection of plaster human statues and busts, thought to be among the earliest examples of human statuary discovered anywhere in the world.

But preliminary analyses of the other artifacts, cultural remains, stone tools, plant and animal material, architecture and human remains from Ain Ghazal have started to draw the outlines of a large, sophisticated village that successfully exploited considerable local and regional natural resources over a period of hundreds of years. In the process, the villagers of Ain Ghazal helped push forward the development of village society during that period in the history of mankind that has

been called the Neolithic Revolution — roughly the 4,000 years between 8000 B.C. and 4000 B.C. when mankind made the slow, gradual transition from small bands of nomadic hunter-gatherers to permanently established villages based on a combination of hunting and gathering, plant cultivation, animal domestication and the earliest forms of commercial trade.

One of the important achievements of the 1983 season was a more accurate delineation of the size of the Neolithic village at Ain Ghazal. According to test trenches and a casual walking survey of the immediate vicinity of the site, the Neolithic village covered an area of at least 27 acres (11 hectares, or 110 dunums). It is located across the highway from the main sewage treatment plant of Amman, along both sides of the highway leading into north Amman from Zarqa.

Several samples of the artifacts retrieved from the excavation are being analysed in the United States using the Carbon-14 dating technique, which will help provide a more accurate dating of the site. But a comparison of the artifacts with those from other Neolithic villages in the Middle East, such as Jericho, suggests to the archaeologists that the village flourished around 6250 B.C. This is the period known as the pre-pottery Neolithic B (PPNB), when stone age people were settling down into small villages and exploiting domesticated animals and cultivated cereals, but had not yet mastered the production of true

fired pottery.

The 1983 season produced an estimate quarter of a million stone (flint) artifacts, mostly tools and the associated cores and debris that is left over after the production of the tools. A preliminary analysis of about five per cent of the stone material reveals the use of blades, bladelets, knives, drills, reamers, scrapers, chisels, axes, choppers, wedges, luauers, microliths, burins and projectile points (arrowheads and spearheads). There is also some tentative evidence for a pre-Neolithic occupation of the site.

Bone tools, though poorly represented this year, continue to suggest a "sewing kit" interpretation for the archaeologists. Aids for working leather and sutures and needles for sewing and weaving were the most common finds, along with one long, slender, slightly curved bone "wand" about 12 cm long that may have been used for weaving.

Limestone seems to have been the favourite material for making querns, mortars and stone bowls, while imported basalt, probably from the Mafraq area to the northeast, was used for hand-held millers, grinding stones and pestles.

One-hundred and thirty-three small human and animal clay figurines were found this year at Ain Ghazal. The human figurines, ranging in size from approximately 3-7 cm, included many small female representations that are interpreted as fertility objects or "mother-goddesses," which often closely resemble similar fig-

urines discovered in Europe, Turkey and other nearby areas of the Middle East. The absence of heads on many figurines may parallel the headless human burials that have been found at Ain Ghazal and other PPNB sites in the area.

Most of the 70 animal figurines, about 5-10 cm long, are cattle representations, while other animals depicted may include fox, equids, wild pig or goat.

A total of 130 small, geometric clay objects excavated this year may be counting tokens used for administrative purposes by a village that was constantly faced with the need to deal with the organisation of a growing and more sophisticated society. The shapes included cones, cylinders, balls, pyramids and discs, and resemble similar objects found at sites in other parts of the PPNB Middle East.

Whiteware plaster fragments of bowls, boxes and other container-type objects were also found this year, and may have been used to store dry foods or other goods.

Eighteen pottery sherds came from definite PPNB levels, and their crude workmanship and very light firing "are important indicators of initial experimentation with ceramic manufacture," dig co-director Dr. Gary Rollefson told the Jordan Times in an interview. Some of the sherds are coated with the red ochre colouring that is a hallmark of the PPNB culture.

Beads were plentiful this year, with quite a few bone beads along with beads of polished stone, carnelian, and animal teeth. Limestone pendant fragments are thought to be the remains of circular pendants, and probably not of bracelets as was initially thought to be the case. Among the most interesting items were a mother-of-pearl and a boomerang-shaped pendant, and a "butterfly" beads.

An astounding quantity of well preserved animal bones was recovered this year, totalling about half a million pieces. The broad range of animal species represented at Ain Ghazal includes goat, gazelle, cattle, wild pig, small carnivores (especially fox) hare, and turtles. Birds, rodents and other small animals are well represented, along with some evidence of fish and equids. The wide variety of animals exploited at Ain Ghazal is significant, according to co-director Dr. Alan Simmons, "for it appears that we are dealing with a village that was strategically situated in a lush immediate environment that bordered on several



Dr. Gary Rollefson (left) and Dr. Alan Simmons, co-directors of the Ain Ghazal excavation, with the cache of plaster statues and busts discovered in this year's dig.

other types of environments rich in different kinds of animal resources that were also exploited. The wide variety of faunal inventory is remarkable, and attests to a quite varied animal protein diet enjoyed by a population nominally relying on domesticated animals."

An analysis of the bone material does not yet confirm any significant domestication of goats, though this is suggested by some pathological evidence and culling patterns. There is similar evidence for possible domestication of cattle. All indications suggest the first stages of domestication of animals were being practiced at Ain Ghazal, though hunting was clearly still an important part of the village economy.

The preliminary analysis of the plant remains, mainly charred seeds and other plant parts, shows the presence of more peas and lentils than cereal grains, with small amounts of chickpea, fig and "weeds" that probably represented wild plants that must have played an important role in the economy of Ain Ghazal.

Human burials recovered this year included 19 skeletons (compared to 15 in 1982), exhibiting four different burial styles. Some burials were missing the skulls, while others were fully intact skeletons. Burials were found below the interior floors of houses, while others were outside the buildings.

One burial of two newborn infants directly above and associated with a "nest" of four adult human skulls suggests a "sacrificial" burial, Dr. Rollefson said.

Two of the four adult skulls retained plaster in the eye sockets

and fragments of plaster adhered to the cheeks and upper jaw areas. A thin layer of asphalt was found on one of the skulls.

Another skull in a different part of the site appears to have been uniquely painted with red ochre. The skeletons ranged in age from small children, to adults in their 40s, to two senile women with severe arthritis, perhaps in their 60s. Some dental diseases and broken bones were evident, but on the whole the population of Ain Ghazal, to judge from the skeletons, seems to have been a relatively healthy one.

The architecture revealed in the 1983 season included between 15 and 20 individual buildings, probably houses. The standard building technique was stone walls set in mud mortar, faced with a mud plaster and finished off with a hard white plaster coating on the inside. In many cases, the plaster was painted red.

If construction techniques were standardised at Ain Ghazal, there seems to have been no standard design for the houses. Each excavated building has a different shape and size. There is also extensive renovation in many of the houses, with some room floors having been replastered three or four times during the lifetime of the structure. Some of the rooms were remodelled, with walls and doorways added or blocked at various stages of the building's use.

This year also brought to light the first possible evidence of wall paintings, in the form of an inverted triangle section of a red ochre decoration on a white plastered wall.

Continued on page 2



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## Scuttling Israel's game

THERE is nothing more futile perhaps than defining bold moves in elastic terms. And the Arabs can be as much emotional as they like about PLO Chairman Arafat's visit to Cairo last week. Let us for a moment consider the position of those who came out strongly in rejecting the Palestinian leader's dramatic step as either a "blatant violation" of the PLO charter and Arab summit resolutions, or as a new attempt to force the Arabs into accepting the Camp David accords, or, in fact, as an affront to these accords.

The rejectionists are not American, European or moderate Arab; they are mainly radical Palestinians, Syrians, Libyans and Israelis — the kind of segregation, if you like, that would naturally form following each and every major political development in the Middle East.

Whether these groups do or do not understand the implication of their respective stances on Arafat's decision to open a new dialogue with Egypt, is not exactly clear yet. What is evident, however, is that the rejectionists suit only themselves when they continue to reject every reasonable attempt at compromise which the other side wants to make.

If the PLO chairman's talks with President Mubarak the other day were indeed a violation of Palestine National Council (PNC) resolutions on relations with "Camp David's Egypt", what would the Arab rejectionists call the Syrian and Libyan bloody onslaught against Arafat's loyalists in Lebanon during the past seven months? A strict adherence to the Fez Arab summit resolutions on the Palestinian problem, probably? Or an accomplishment of the Geneva conference on reconciliation in Lebanon last month? Or what?

The radicals in the Palestinian camp, and with them the Syrians and the Libyans, do not seem to understand why they laid siege to Arafat and his supporters in north Lebanon — and if they did know what they were doing to the Palestinian cause at the time, they evidently must have miscalculated the outcome.

This in no way means that the Arab radicals have forced Arafat onto the Camp David road — even if that was their intention. Camp David is a dead horse, and they know it. And even by American standards its agreements have effectively "run their course".

What is left for us to say is that Arafat went to Cairo to talk and to explore — to find a balance really to the pseudo radicals' extreme course. No-one should blame him for it. Extremist policies have exclusively been Israel's winning game.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

### Al Ra'i: A Mideast turning point

IT WILL not be long before everyone realised that the visit to Cairo by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat had placed the Middle East region face to face with a critical turning point. Also it is premature to judge the visit, to condemn it or to support it because we are awaiting its results. The fact that it was in Cairo that Arafat made his first stop after leaving Beirut makes it a significant event and a controversial issue in the Arab World. This visit has so far drawn condemnation from certain Arab capitals coupled with total condemnation by Syrian-backed groups within the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

But the visit, for others, seemed a starting point towards returning Egypt to the Arab fold. It is really hard to support the views of either party in this issue and it is better to wait and see the outcome of the visit in the light of the coming events and developments throughout the Arab World. No doubt the visit has stirred the still water of diplomatic moves despite the fact that nobody expects anything from such moves, now that the U.S. has joined the enemy's camp thus opening the door wide open only for the military option.

### Al Dustour: Bolstering Arab solidarity

THOSE WHO protested or opposed the visit by Mr. Yasser Arafat to Cairo were expressing their fears that the visit might serve the cause of the Camp David agreement which led to the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty that was condemned by all Arabs because they deny all rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. But Israel's own reaction to the visit has helped to place everything in its proper perspective. The Israelis have protested and expressed their anger because the visit, to them at least, represented a blow to the Egyptian-Israeli relations and a setback to the Zionists' attempts to deny the Palestinian people the right to determine their own future.

The Israelis were angered because such a visit might signal the beginning of Egypt's return to the Arab fold — something continuously demanded by the Arab and Egyptian masses. No doubt Israel construed the visit as a bridge for re-establishing Egypt back in its place within the Arab ranks, thus bolstering Arab solidarity.

Those who protested against the visit and those who condemned it were undoubtedly mistaken and have done both Egypt and the PLO a terrible injustice.

### Sawt Al Shaab: A realistic approach.

WE BELIEVE that President Reagan's statement on Saturday that only a comprehensive solution can bring peace to the Middle East and U.S. welcoming of Arafat's visit to Cairo are not enough. The U.S. has to support its words with deeds and stop viewing things from Israeli angle.

The U.S. must be realistic in dealing with the Israelis and the Arabs and must take a lesson from Egypt's stand vis a vis the issue. Israel has always believed that dividing the Arabs and concluding separate treaties with them can help it to achieve its goals and attain its ambitions in the region.

But Egypt's stands, represented in its support for the Palestinian people's rights, its welcoming of Arafat and its opposition to Israel's practices in the occupied lands, have thwarted Zionist ambitions and dreams. It is because the Israelis were disillusioned by Egypt's stands that Tel Aviv was quick to condemn Arafat's visit to Cairo.

It is not surprising at all. But it is surprising to see Israel insisting on considering Egypt as an isolated Arab state or an Israeli protectorate; and it is surprising to see the U.S. insisting on pursuing the same policies towards our region.

# Mr. Arafat, Mr. Mubarak and Mr. McGoo

By Rami G. Khouri

As Colombo the detective says, there's just one thing that don't make sense to me: If Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee Chairman Yasser Arafat is a spent force and a man of no further importance, then why has his brief meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak set off such a chain of strong reactions throughout the Arab World, Israel, the Palestinian community and the rest of the planet? And while I'm at it in the confusion department, there's one more thing that I don't get: why should Mr. Arafat's talks with President Mubarak make such a fuss, official Jordan has signed an official commercial agreement with the Egyptian government and has evoked not a whisper of protest from the Arab World?

If official Arab contacts with Egypt are so menacing, Jordan should, logically, be subjected to a shower of protest, if not also to a boycott by all the Arab states that originally boycotted Egypt in 1979 after the signing of the Camp David accords that brought peace between Egypt and Israel. But none of what should logically happen is happening, because there is little room for logic in the universe of Arab politics. Jordan will not be subjected to the wrath of the Arabs for

signing a trade agreement with Egypt. In fact, most Arab states will silently envy Jordan, and probably will soon seek to emulate it in reestablishing normal contacts with Egypt, first commercial, then political. I am, to be sure, a little bit insulted that Jordan has received so little negative criticism from the rest of the Arab World for the agreement with Egypt. I mean, here we are, working hard all these years to make this a lovely, comfortable, self-respecting and sturdy country, and the moment we go and do something really dramatic like being the first Arab country to break away from the (hitherto admittedly leaky, Arab boycott of Egypt, the rest of the Arabs simply ignore us. What are we doing wrong?

The case of Mr. Arafat is only slightly different. His meeting with President Mubarak has evoked powerful, angry reactions from some Arab quarters, and quick praise from many others. Why should this be so? I have, of course, an answer, which can be taken on two levels. On one level, we and the others around the world who either live in, in dread of or in spite of the Middle East are nothing more or less than Arab-Israeli junkies, hopelessly hooked on the phantasmal highs we get from every new move on the scene,

and wondering how things could possibly get worse next week. In this world of Mideast political pinball freaks, Mr. Arafat has just put another token into the machine, and started us on a new game.

On the second level, Mr. Arafat has dared to ridicule the political mythology of the Arab World, and to make us all look like the self-deluding dreamers that we really are. He has dared to poke a hole in the carefully constructed edifice of fantasy that we have created around us during the past five years — an edifice that sought to dispell all notions of our own responsibility for our own failures by the simple, neat and clean stroke of boycotting Egypt. But it never really worked, this boycott of Egypt, because Egypt is sure of itself, and the rest of us are not so sure of ourselves. Egypt is an enduring, ancient civilisation; the rest of the Arabs are fragile nation-states trying to build a sense of nationhood on the backs of football teams, and under the protection of a thin layer of weak pan-Arab commitments. It has not worked.

Mr. Arafat has made this point, and the anger against him is really the anger of an Arab World screaming at itself. Like Mr. Sadat before him, Mr. Arafat has become the easy

target of an Arab World that wishes to scorn itself but still lacks the courage to do so, and instead takes the easy road and heaps abuse on a convenient whipping boy. Sadat? Arafat? the Village Leagues? Saad Haddad? What's the difference? Where are our political victories, that we can point an accusing finger at the traitors or collaborators among us? Where is our fortitude, that we can accuse others of deviation? Where is our hope, that we can accuse others of surrender?

Are the Arabs angry at Mr. Arafat because he has committed a procedural error by unilaterally meeting with President Mubarak, or are they angry because Mr. Arafat — perhaps the supreme symbol of Arabism for the past decade — has come out of the house of cards in which the Arabs have lived for so long? Does one cheer an Arab political leader who decides to cast away the make-believe games of children and accept the harsh reality of an Arab World that was incompetent when Egypt was with it, but that added hypocrisy to incompetence when Egypt was cast aside? Does it make any difference, in the end, if Mr. Arafat meets with President Mubarak, or with the man on the moon, or with Mr. McGoo the cartoon character?

At a time when the Arab World is already in the process of the disintegration of nation-states, the ethnicisation of its collective identity into smaller allegiances based on tribalism and crass patronage, and the return to a normal state of economic growth in which the inequities of societies can no longer be camouflaged by the veneer of money, consumerism and unearned wealth, the Palestinians face the spectre of possible defeat in a manner such as they have never faced in this century. All the Arab states have already served notice that they will not hold their own economic growth or national security hostage to the final resolution of the Palestinian problem. The Arabs are telling Arafat that Palestine comes second, and Arafat tells the Arabs that this is the time to have a chat with Big Bad Hosni, the Bogey Man of Arabism. The only thing more dramatic than Mr. Arafat could have done would have been to have a meeting with Yitzhak Shamir, or Ariel Sharon.

So, you ask, what does it all mean? Should one support or condemn the Arafat-Mubarak meeting? How about the Jordan-Egypt commercial agreement? Or Egyptian aid to Iraq in its war with Iran? Is it possible to isolate these

single events from the greater context of violence and fear that governs the actions of the people of the Arab World today? Do we forget that while Mr. Arafat and his people were under siege in Beirut for three months last year, the rest of the Arabs ate figs? Do we forget that during the weeks of fighting in Tripoli in the past two months, we ate grapes?

I do not see a voice, a single face, among those who either support or condemn Mr. Arafat, that I recall as having come to his aid when he and his people were attacked variously, by Israelis or Arabs. So why are we all so ready now to give Mr. Arafat advice? Because a man on a boat cruising through the Red Sea cannot show as our shame and our failures quite so readily as when he is under the guns of, variously, both Israelis and Arabs?

Mr. Arafat is the symbol of the suddenly haunting spectre of failure for the Palestinians, and of moral collapse for the rest of the Arabs. Or, he is just the Pinball Wizard, playing the most crucial game of his life, while the rest of us cheer him or jeer him, irrevocably hooked on the mind-numbing sensation of helplessly submitting our fate to the force of our own inclination to tilt at every opportunity?



Zia Ull Haq

## Moscow, Kabul warn Pakistan against backing Afghan rebels

By Tom Heneghan  
 Reuters

ISLAMABAD — The chilly winds of East-West relations have shifted south over Afghanistan's Hindu Kush Mountains towards Pakistan, with Moscow and Kabul threatening Islamabad because of its support for anti-Communist Afghan guerrillas.

Moscow sent the first gust on Wednesday with a threat of joint Soviet-Afghan retaliation if Pakistan continued to support the Muslim rebels. Kabul followed Thursday with a charge that Islamabad helped guerrillas destroy an Afghan border post in the Khyber Pass.

Coming shortly after Moscow walked out of three East-West arms reduction talks in Western Europe, the stepped-up threats could signal a tougher Soviet policy in southern Asia as well. Western diplomats here said.

The threats also coincide with the fourth anniversary of Soviet military involvement in Afghanistan in 1979 and the diplomats said pressure on Islamabad could mount as Western interest and guerrilla activity rise to mark the day.

Peshawar-based guerrilla groups, who launch attacks on Kabul from Pakistan's lawless tribal areas bordering Afghanistan, say fighters are already on their way to the capital for attacks on Tuesday, the anniversary of the Soviet-backed coup which brought president Babrak Karmal to power.

In their threats, the strongest heard here in a long time, Moscow and Kabul accuse Pakistan of actively helping the guerrillas conduct their "jihad" (holy war) against the Karmal government.

There would be no fighting and no need for about 105,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan, government argument goes, if Pak-

istan would only "choke off the foreign interference" channelled through its territory by the United States, China and some Islamic countries.

Pakistan, which regularly voices its support for Afghan rebels, denied it gives them military aid and says it cannot control what happens in the rugged frontier area, whose defiant tribes the British also failed to subdue.

Although Islamabad usually handles such threats in a low-key manner, the diplomats said it was worried about them because of the harm any increased pressure here could do.

The country is only slowly getting over recent anti-government unrest in the southern province of Sind, they noted, and a question mark will continue to hang over domestic stability until martial law President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq holds elections promised by March 1985 or decides he cannot risk giving up power and cancelling them.

The new Soviet threats were made by Ambassador Vitaly Smirnov in an interview summarised by the Urdu-language daily Nawa-i-Waqt on Wednesday.

Mr. Smirnov, who in earlier interviews here tried to persuade Islamabad to accept a political settlement for Afghanistan being discussed in United Nations-sponsored talks, took a noticeably tougher tone in threatening Soviet-Afghan action against Pakistan.

He condemned Islamabad for treating the guerrillas as heroes and claimed the U.S. was planning to airlift supplies to rebels inside Afghanistan.

The U.N.-sponsored talks, which ran around in June when Moscow failed to give a timetable for withdrawing its troops, were deadlocked because Pakistan allowed "outside aggression" to continue and even increase, he charged.



Zia Ull Haq

Pakistani officials denied the airlift charge but said they would not comment on the rest of Mr. Smirnov's statements until they saw the full text of the interview, which Nawa-i-Waqt will publish soon.

Afghanistan also toughened its tone Thursday, calling in Islamabad's charge d'affaires in Kabul to accuse Pakistani border guards of helping guerrillas destroy the Torkham border post in the Khyber Pass last week.

It warned of dangerous consequences if such attacks continued.

Rebel groups seized the post recently, cutting off all traffic on the main highway linking Kabul with Pakistan, but abandoned it on Wednesday under heavy government shelling. Radio Kabul said Thursday night the rebels had

destroyed the post.

While the situation in Afghanistan has markedly chilled political relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union, a new warmth has suddenly developed in the economic field which has both Pakistanis and Western diplomats wondering about Moscow's intentions.

Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan returned recently from a six-day visit to Moscow with Soviet promises to build a thermal power station, supply two oil rigs and consider helping finish a dam and a nuclear power plant. All are projects in which Pakistan has found it difficult to interest Western investors.

Asked upon his return why the Soviets were suddenly so friendly in the economic field, Mr. Ishaq Khan simply said: "I do not know."

## Bring the boys home

By Jesse L. Jackson

ACTIONS TAKEN by the Reagan administration during the past week have contributed both to seriously destabilising Lebanon and endangering the lives of our Marines in Lebanon.

As a result of the content of the strategic cooperation agreement with Israel, and U.S. air strikes against Syrian and Lebanese positions, America has lost any legitimacy as a neutral peacekeeping force in Lebanon.

President Reagan has dramatically and, I believe, mistakenly altered our role in Lebanon. Our Marines were dispatched there as peacekeepers. They have become combatants in an undeclared and ever-escalating war. It is a war with no clear objectives and a war no one can win.

We have no national interest in fighting a war in Lebanon. But we do have an interest in helping to restore peace in Lebanon. There are no military solutions to Lebanon's political problems.

While there is clear consensus in the U.S. that Israel and Syria must leave Lebanon, it is tragically clear that policies pursued by the Reagan administration have not contributed to that end. A case in point is the unequal treatment meted out last week to visiting Lebanese and Israeli heads of state. At the end of his visit to Washington, Lebanon's President Gemayel left empty-handed and disappointed. Israeli Prime Minister Shamir, on the other hand, left with his arms full without having been asked to make any concessions towards peace.

Israel must leave Lebanon. Its invasion of Lebanon was illegal in international law and in violation of our own bilateral arms agreements with them. By concluding an agreement with Israel, which in effect absolves them of any guilt for their invasion, and gives almost formal blessing to their continued presence in Lebanon (even to the point of resupplying "Israeli Defence Forces" with deadly cluster

bombs), and by making war on Syria and its Lebanese allies, we have not contributed to removing either Israel or Syria from Lebanon. We have merely hardened the resolve of each party to pursue its own course without compromise. It is therefore, a matter of great urgency that we alter the current course of American policy in Lebanon.

I, therefore, urge the following steps be taken:

1. immediate removal of U.S. Marines from Lebanon and their replacement by neutral peacekeepers under the auspices of the U.N.;

2. reaffirm American support for the independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon, and American opposition to any efforts to annex, partition, or permanently occupy any part of Lebanon's territory;

3. redouble our commitment to the reconciliation process that is currently underway in the Lebanese all-party peace conference in Geneva. In this regard, U.S. aid to Lebanon should be consistent with the goals of both national reconstruction and reconciliation of the Lebanese body politic;

4. recommit America to a comprehensive Middle East peace in a manner consistent with general principles enunciated by this and previous administrations — a peace that would reject Israeli annexation of the Golan Heights, would assert the right of Israel to internationally recognised boundaries and the right of Palestinians to independent statehood in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

These steps are comparable with our goal of re-establishing normalised ties with the Arab World. The Middle East is a flash point for hot and cold war. In these critical days before "The Day After," it is imperative that we change in our Middle East policy, so that no more innocent lives be sacrificed.

Bring the boys home. — ADC report.



# World War mine still strewn in many countries

By Anthony Goodman  
Retier

UNITED NATIONS — Nearly 40 years after the end of World War II, many areas of the world are still strewn with unexploded mines, shells and other relics of that and later conflicts, according to a United Nations report.

In North Africa, allied and axis forces are estimated to have laid between five million and 19 million land mines during the various campaigns that rolled back and forth across the desert landscape.

In Poland, invaded by Nazi Germany in 1939 and later fought over by the Soviet and German armies, about 15 million land mines and 74 million other pieces of ordnance have been cleared since the war, while in Finland about one million have been disposed of, the report said.

Since 1945, it added, more than 7,000 bombs, over 718,000 artillery shells and almost 476,000 grenades and other small explosive devices have been neutralised in West Berlin alone.

The task of clearing continues. Mine disposal units in France have been employing a total of about 90 experts at any one time, organised in 10 teams. More than 13,000 high explosive munitions were cleared in 1978 alone.

About 50 professionals are similarly employed daily in the Netherlands, the U.N. report said.

The report was prepared in response to a December 1982 General Assembly resolution, prompted by concern for the human

economic and environmental effects of unexploded battlefield relics.

Libya has been in the forefront of the campaign to draw attention to the problem. According to the report, 33 per cent of its entire land area is considered to be dangerous owing to the explosive remnants of the World War II.

Over a period of 30 years after the fighting ended, about 4,000 Libyans were said to have been killed and more than 8,000 wounded by such munitions, as well as more than 125,000 domestic animals — camels, sheep, goats and cattle — reported killed.

As a result of more recent fighting, between Egypt and Israel, some 8,500 items of explosive ordnance were found in the Suez Canal and disposed of, while nearly 700,000 land mines were cleared from the adjacent terrain.

In Zimbabwe, the scene of a protracted independence war, the Lower Zambezi National Park has had to be virtually abandoned, the report said, because the park itself and the roads leading to it were heavily mined.

The U.N. document also provided a revealing insight into the hazards of "dud" munitions that malfunction when fired but might still pose a danger for years or even decades.

During World War II, it said, between five and 10 per cent of United States bombs did not explode, especially those fitted with delayed-action fuses.

The overall failure rate of all high-explosive munitions expended by the U.S. during the Vle-

nam War was estimated to be about 10 per cent.

On that basis, it concluded, about two million bombs, 23 million artillery shells and millions of hand grenades and other high-explosive munitions did not explode as intended.

The problem of unexploded munitions could be mitigated through the design and adoption of more dependable fuses, resulting

in fewer dangerous duds, the report stated.

Another suggestion was that every type of high-explosive munition should be designed to incorporate a built-in mechanism that would render it harmless in due course.

A U.N. body might serve as a repository for information about the location, magnitude and destructive capacities of remnants of

war, as well as data about the techniques available for their removal.

This would be of particular help to developing countries that lack the technical expertise.

The report also suggested the holding of an international conference on all aspects of the problem, or the convening of a meeting of experts to come up with specific recommendations.

# Europe's outpost now uninhabited

By Colin McIntyre  
Retier

GREAT BLASKET ISLAND, Ireland — This tiny windswept island, which was once the nearest inhabited part of Europe to the United States, used to have a thriving community, but today seals and seals are the only permanent residents.

The ruggedly beautiful island of

Great Blasket, three miles (five kilometres) off the westernmost tip of County Kerry in the Irish Republic, once boasted 160 islanders. The community survived for 300 years but the last people could not hang on beyond 1956.

Today only a handful of fishermen and a French and German couple who turned a cottage into a cafe and hostel for tourists spend a few summer months here.

Ironically it was the lure of emigration to America, the traditional escape route from Ireland's poverty and unemployment, that proved fatal to the community.

With the exodus of able-bodied men and women the older islanders found it increasingly hard to cope with the harsh life on the four-miles-by-one (six kilometres by 1.6 kilometres) island.

They hung on grimly until 1956, living in a cluster of 30 simple stone cottages sheltering from the Atlantic gales that howl across the treeless island. The last people were then evacuated to the mainland from where they could watch their former homes battered to ruins by the elements.

Former islander John Carney, 72, said it had been a good life on the islands. They caught mackerel and seals, grew wheat and kept a few sheep and goats.

There were no wheeled vehicles or machines, no church, no shop, offices or bar, no telephone or electricity, he said as he gazed across the water separating Great Blasket and the mainland.

What they did have, he said, was a constant flow of stories that kept alive the island's myths and history. These produced four 20th century Irish writers, Peig Sayers, Michael O'Garra, Thomas O'Roan and Maurice O'Sullivan.

Their simple tales were about lean times when the crops failed and the fish and seals were scarce, and good times when a ship was wrecked on the jagged coast and they could live off the salvage for months.

O'Roan described in his classic "The Islandman", written originally in Gaelic, of sharing a cramped, thatched-roofed cottage with two cows, a donkey and chickens.

He wrote it as a record of island life, recognising that "the like of us will never be the same again."

There is evidence the island was first inhabited long before the birth of Christ and the recent settlement dated back to the 17th century.

Sometimes the islanders would visit the mainland where they were easily identifiable as they walked in single file, bent forward with hands behind their backs as if following one of the narrow windswept paths criss-crossing the island.

The paths are still there and lead to places named after events in the island's history. Sorrowful Slope marked the spot where islanders and women watched 14 of their menfolk drown in a storm.

Apart from the cafe and hostel, a few of the ruined houses have been renovated by relatives of former islanders and local fishermen, who use the island as a base during the summer.

Mainlanders and former islanders are happy to see tourists to the island but they are determined it is not to be developed.

"This is one of the most peaceful places on God's earth," said Michael Connor, who has a house on the island and ferries tourists to it when he is not fishing. "We aim to keep it that way."

# Excavations will help unravel mysteries

Continued from page 3

The most important discovery of the 1983 season at Ain Ghazal was undoubtedly the collection of at least ten plaster human statues (approximately 80-90 cm high) and a complement of 12 smaller plaster busts (about 35-40 cm high). The entire collection was carefully arranged in a single deposit. Dr. Rollefson said, with the statues lying in an east-west direction in two tiers and the smaller busts aligned stacked in an arc at the feet of the statues.

The statues seem to have been made by first constructing an inner skeleton of twigs and reeds that was tightly wrapped with coarse twine to form a "stickman", around which the plaster was moulded. The relatively stylised statue bodies have short, stumpy legs and lack generally featureless torsos, elongated necks and outsized heads that are flat in profile. The white eyes stand out from the rest of the plaster (perhaps because white chalk was used in them for emphasis), and each eye was surrounded by a thin filament of a bluish-green pigment. A small circle of asphalt attached to the cen-

tre represented the iris of the eyes.

Though the statues are all similar at first look, a closer observation shows attempts have been made to give each statue individual features to distinguish it from the others. At least one statue seems to be that of a woman, to judge by its breasts, while another is obviously a male because of its featureless chest. The female statues are at a 180-degree angle to the others, with its head at the feet of the rest of the statues.

The smaller busts are also made of plaster moulded around an inner structure of cord-wrapped twigs and reeds, with exaggerated necks that penetrate far into the solid plaster torso bases. The facial features of the busts are similar to those of the larger statues.

A fragment of a foot of one of the statues has six toes, which corresponds to another six-toed statue discovered at Jericho in the 1930s by a British team of archaeologists under John Garstang. The links between the Ain Ghazal and the Jericho PPNB villages during the 6th-7th millennia B.C. are intriguing, and the further study of the cultural

religious/cultic significance of the Ain Ghazal statues promises to provide important information about humankind's early cultic practices. The Ain Ghazal statues and busts are now at the Institute of Archaeology in London, where they are being conserved by a team of specialists under the direction of Mrs. Kathryn Tubb.

Dr. Rollefson estimates that the large size of the site may have supported as many as 2,000-3,000 people at one time. He notes that "such a population probably would not have resolved conflicts on the basis of kinship alone, and it is probable that some kind of central authority would have been required to control behaviour and resolve disputes that would have arisen over land or water resources. Did they establish a council of elders, or a council of priests? Did a single person lead the community? These early changes in social organisation may become more clear as we get further into the study of the Ain Ghazal material," he says.

Dr. Simmons also notes that Ain Ghazal shows signs of cultural and economic contacts with PPNB communities both to the north as well as to the south and west, and it may provide valuable information about the kinds of regional economic and cultural contacts that were taking place in the Middle East in that formative stage of human development.

A third season of digging will take place at Ain Ghazal in 1984, including an extensive survey within a five-kilometre radius of the site to determine whether other, smaller PPNB communities were associated with the relatively large village at Ain Ghazal.

Dr. Rollefson will present a slide-lecture on the most recent discoveries at Ain Ghazal on Wednesday, December 28, at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre, Third Circle, Jabbal Amman.

The excavations at Ain Ghazal are funded by the Centre for Jordanian Studies at Yarmouk University, the National Geographic Society (USA), the Cobb Institute for Archaeology at Mississippi State University, the Wenner-Gren Foundation, the University of Kansas and the Jordanian Department of Antiquities. The Department of Antiquities representative to the dig is Mr. Khalid Abu Ghumima.

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## SPORTS

## Egypt ends soccer visit in triumph

By Saleem B. Ne'matt  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A crowd of 25,000 spectators rose to their feet in a standing ovation after three breathtaking goals were scored within three minutes in the second half of Sunday's match held between the visiting national Egyptian soccer team and the national Jordanian team which ended with an Egyptian victory of 3-1, here at the Sports City stadium.

During the first half and after an intimidating performance by both teams, Egypt's Ali Nabil was able to score the first goal for his team at the 18th minute after heading in a high ball in front of goalkeeper Izzat Hashem.

Also in the first half, Egypt's goalkeeper Ikrami was miraculously saved by his goal post from a header. Only bad luck denied Jordan's Khaled Awad from equalising.

The real drama started in the 34th minute of the second half when Egypt's striker Taher Abu Zeid scored the second goal for Egypt after a brilliant pass by Hamdi Al Khatib and a powerful shot to the left of the goalkeeper. Only one minute later, Jordan's Fayed Bdeiri delivered a high corner kick that reached in front of Egypt's goal, in time for Ibrahim Sa'diah who was at the right spot to drive a powerful shot into the net scoring the first and only goal for the Jordanian team.

Before the spectators could hold their breaths, a third Egyptian goal devastated the Jordanian net in the 72nd minute of the match scored by Imad Sulaiman who dribbled past defenders and powered a shot that easily found its way to the back of the net to register the third Egyptian goal and the last of the match.

The Jordanian team dominated the pitch throughout the first 15 minutes of the match by their organised passes and by imposing a

kind of siege on the Egyptian players depriving them the freedom to move with the ball while at the same time carrying out a successful attack in which four to six players would participate. Throughout this period, the Jordanian team caught the Egyptian team by surprise and threatened their net more than once.

After the 20th minute of the first half and after scoring their first goal, the Egyptians regained confidence and started to threaten the Jordanian team with their short quick passes and took of the game which resulted later in the second and third goal in the second half.

It wouldn't be far from the truth to say that the Egyptian players were feeling at home during the match due to the overwhelming attendance of fellow Egyptian fans who without exaggeration formed two thirds of the spectators at the stadium.

The Egyptian team earlier beat the Jordanian 3-1 in a match held Friday at the Sports City stadium. The Egyptian team's visit to Jordan and their two matches held with the Jordanian team comes in preparation for their meeting with the Algerian team next month in Algeria within the Olympic Games soccer qualifying rounds. The winner of this clash will be one of Africa's representatives at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. There are two countries representing Africa in the games.



Egyptian strikers (dark shirts) on one of their frequent attacks during the match held Sunday at the Sports City stadium.

## Windies pinned down by India's spinners

MADRAS, India (R) — India's spinners made the West Indies work hard for their 207 for five on the second day of the rain-hit sixth and final cricket test here.

With the first day washed out and Sunday a rest day the tourists opened their bid to wrap up the series 4-0 by winning the toss for only the second time in all six clashes.

But the batsmen became entrenched on the slow but true pitch against left arm specialists Maninder Singh and Ravi Shastri, aided by Shival Yadav, and Jeff Dujon was the top scorer with 48 not out — made in three hours with six fours.

Gordon Greenidge was in aggressive mood and vigorously attacked seamers Kapil Dev and Roger Binny. But he found the going difficult against the slower men who went on with the first

innings only nine overs old.

After making 34 in a total of 47, Greenidge drove vigorously at Shastri but lifted a hard catch to extra cover.

Viv Richards batted with restraint by his standards yet made 32 in 52 minutes. With lunch eight minutes away, he aimed across Maninder Singh's spin and top-edged a simple catch to Kirmani behind.

Opener Desmond Haynes, also unable to assert himself during the morning session, and Larry Gomes fought a grim battle with India's bowlers after the break.

Seven were added in 31 minutes then Haynes was out, bowled by

Maninder Singh for 23. He edged the ball on to his off-stump after playing down the wrong line.

Like the previous tests, left-hander Gomes was in poor form, but he was not wanting in determination. He hung on almost until tea and was then beaten and bowled by off-spinner Yadav. Gomes batted two hours for his 28.

Dujon, Gomes' fourth wicket partner, continued the circumspet approach, making 14 in 90 minutes before tea.

When Gomes fell, West Indies were 136 for four, the last three wickets disappearing in the space of 45 runs.

## Noah voted Champion of Champions

PARIS (R) — Yannick Noah, the French Open tennis champion about to quit his country, has been voted France's "Champion of Champions" for 1983 in a poll organised by the national sporting daily l'Equipe, the newspaper said Sunday.

French soccer captain Michel Platini, currently playing for Italian club Juventus, came second

and Laurent Fignon, who unexpectedly won the Tour de France cycling classic this year, was third.

The 23-year-old Noah, born in what is now the West African state of Cameroon, announced recently he could no longer bear life in France and would move to New York in time for the Masters' tournament there next month.

## Australia, Sweden level after 1st day of Davis Cup final

MELBOURNE (R) — John Fitzgerald, picked despite his indifferent practice form to play singles for Australia, squared the Davis Cup tennis final against Sweden at 1-1 by beating Jnaskim Nyström 6-4, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4 at Kooyong here on Monday.

After Mats Wilander had given Sweden the lead with a hard-earned 6-3, 4-6, 9-7, 6-3 victory over Pat Cash in the opening match, the 23-year-old Fitzgerald responded magnificently to the pressure to keep the underdog Australians' hopes very much alive.

Fitzgerald, whose victory over world number four Yannick Noah undoubtedly took Australia past France in the semifinals, showed the same kind of fighting spirit Monday as he subdued Nyström with a solid display of grass court power tennis.

The first day stalemate means that Tuesday's doubles will be a crucial test of nerve with the more experienced Paul McNamee and Mark Edmondson taking on the younger but more successful Swedish pair of Anders Jarryd and Hans Simonsson.

In the reverse singles on Wednesday, Cash takes on Nyström and then in the final match Fitzgerald will face Wilander.

After the defeat of Cash by Wilander, there was immense pressure on Fitzgerald, who despite his practice form was picked by non-playing captain Neale Fraser to play singles on the strength of his ability to rise to the big occasion.

Fitzgerald, whose Davis Cup record is now a faultless 5-0, fully justified Fraser's faith by ripping through the first two sets with an overwhelming serve-volley attack against Nyström, winner of the New South Wales Open last week.

The slender, blond Nyström, 20, admitted later he was nervous at the start, but in the third set he was more relaxed as his lethal lobs and two-fisted backhand passing shots got him back into the match.

The set had seven service breaks, five in succession from the fourth to the eighth games. Nyström finally managed to hold serve to lead 5-4 and then broke the Australian with a perfect top spin lob which left Fitzgerald help-

less. After the 14-minute break, Fitzgerald was even more pumped up, fighting back from 2-1 down to level at 2-2 and then stamping around the baseline with both fists raised in exultation.

Momentarily demoralised, Nyström served two double faults but then won a point, and the normally expressionless Swede aped Fitzgerald's action by raising his fists high in the air to a noisy response from the strong Swedish contingent in the crowd.

Fitzgerald scored the crucial service break to lead 5-4 when Nyström put a return astray after a baseline rally, then he held serve and fell to his knees after clinching the final point.

Fitzgerald, who said he believed he had played better each day through practice, added that he felt the crowd was a major factor on Monday.

"It is just the greatest feeling of all time having that many people yelling your name and cheering for you," he said. "I think that was probably a little more emotional than any other match I have ever played."

"I can still feel it now. I definitely know I can play better than that, but I get the best out of my game in these types of matches," he added.

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke's presence was an added spur for Fitzgerald. "I could see him yelling and cheering just like everyone else and that was great."

Fitzgerald said he also received much help and advice from Fraser at court-side. "He is a very good tactician and we always plays a big part in my wins."

Fraser, tempted during last week to use Edmondson or McNamee in place of Fitzgerald in the singles, said: "I thought Fitzzy would win and that would cause an upset in the first match — and we weren't that far from it."

He added he felt Australia could win the next two matches to clinch the cup.

Swedish captain Hans Olsson

said he knew from the beginning it would be a tough tie.

"I'm glad we've won one match and still have a good chance," he said. "Mats was very good to break Cash's attacks and Jnaskim was almost successful doing the same thing."

Nyström said later Fitzgerald's clenched fist demonstration had not upset him. "This is a Davis Cup final and if you play at home you can do that," he said.

In the first match, Cash was let down badly by his serve and handed Wilander numerous points through unforced errors. He served 16 double faults, seven in the last set.

By contrast, the cool and steady Wilander had only one double fault in the three hour and 15 minute match.

Wilander said there had been a lot more pressure Monday than when he won the Australian Open title here two weeks ago.

"When you play Grand Prix tournaments you are more relaxed but today Pat and I are playing for so many people. I am playing for Sweden. He is playing for Australia — it is another kind of pressure," he said.

Wilander felt he had not returned well Monday and he said he had trouble with the wind while serving.

Cash, 18, was obviously despondent after his loss and moped through his press conference later, munching a sandwich and answering questions in monosyllables.

He said he also had trouble with the wind but felt he could have returned Wilander's second serve better.

It was the first time the pair have met in open competition and Cash said Wilander had played "pretty much as I expected him to."

The Australian, whose increasingly volatile temper has become a problem lately, kept it well under control Monday. He disputed one line call but quickly accepted the ruling of American umpire Ron Bennett.

## Mohsin gives Pakistan solid start to 4th test

MELBOURNE (R) — Opener, Mohsin Khan gave Pakistan an excellent start to the fourth cricket test against Australia here Monday.

Mohsin hit a chanceless 152 in 354 minutes as Pakistan amassed a first innings total of 308 for five in their bid to win the match and square the series with one test remaining.

It was the opener's best score against Australia but Mohsin was disappointed not to have beaten his highest test total of 200 against England.

After falling leg before to veteran paceman Dennis Lillee — his only blemish — Mohsin declared: "I'm sad I missed my chance to get my second 200 because the chance was there." His innings included one six and 18 fours.

Most of his teammates found problems with the Australian attack, spearheaded by John Maguire, making his test debut along with off spinner Greg Matthews.

But Mohsin did receive solid support from Zaheer Abbas until the Pakistani vice captain was run out for 44. The mix-up — Mohsin stood his ground as Zaheer attempted a second run — ended a 149-minute fourth wicket partnership worth 132.

Pakistan began badly, losing Mudassar Nazar for seven with the total 13. He edged a Geoff Lawson delivery to wicketkeeper Rodney Marsh.

Oasim Omar added 51 in 85 minutes for the second wicket before Maguire bowled him for 23.

Former captain Javed Miandad began aggressively and thrashed his first boundary for six off Matthews but went in a controversial incident after reaching 27.

He appeared to get an inside edge to a Maguire delivery, but few Australians appealed when Marsh took the ball. Umpire Tony Crafter took a few seconds raising his finger and Miandad departed shaking his head after ripping off his gloves.

Imran Khan, out of action for most of the tour because of a shin injury, made a confident return to the test arena, hitting two boundaries in his 10 not out before the close. Salim Malik contributed an unbeaten 28.

Maguire finished with two for 68 off 18 overs while Matthews was left awaiting his first test victim after conceding 69 runs in 19 overs.

The 21.6 metre Sydney sloop Apollo, skippered by Warwick Rooklyn, snatched the early lead with a magnificent start.

The dark blue hulled 24.7 metre yacht skippered by television executive Marvin Green took only a

few minutes to clear the heads — the entrance to Sydney harbour — after the start of the 630-mile race.

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## American sloop steals early honours in Sydney-Hobart race

SYDNEY (R) — The American sloop Nirvana romped ahead of a record fleet of 173 yachts in the 39th Sydney to Hobart yacht race on Monday.

The dark blue hulled 24.7 metre yacht skippered by television executive Marvin Green took only a

few minutes to clear the heads — the entrance to Sydney harbour — after the start of the 630-mile race.

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## Bangladesh's pearl trade loses its lustre

GHATIBHANGA, Bangladesh (R) — The lustre of Bangladeshi pearls has not dimmed, but the booming trade they once brought to the country's southern coastline has dwindled.

Once a major foreign-exchange earner, the pearl trade has lost traditional markets.

Traders blame government neglect in the 12 years since independence.

Last year, the pearl trade grossed about 50 million taka (\$2 million), but traders estimate that Bangladeshi pearls fetch twice that price in international markets.

"Everyone in my family was once engaged in pearling. I am the

only one left now. The others have taken to fishing," said Mrs. Salima Khatun, a 60-year-old shabbily dressed woman.

Mrs. Khatun has spent 2/3 of her life diving for oysters off this quiet island in the Bay of Bengal. She fears that shrinking pearl production may force traders to give up their traditional occupation by the end of the century.

Until the early seventies, gem traders and their agents regularly visited villages along the bay to buy pearls from the fishermen.

The pearls they collected were sold in the gem markets of Dhaka, Calcutta, Bombay and New Delhi.

Now only a few agents visit the villages occasionally, buying pearls

at 2,500 taka (\$100) an ounce. Those not sold are ground up for use in traditional medicines.

Mr. Mohammad Rashid, a former member of parliament and connoisseur of gems, said more than half Ghatibhanga's population used to dive for pearls. Even the women went to sea with nets to bring in oysters and other shells.

He blames the dwindling trade on unrestricted and indiscriminate fishing of seed-pearls and the killing of mother shells by coastal fishermen.

Mr. Rashid wants the Bangladesh government to declare potentially rich pearl-growing areas out-of-bounds for fishing. He also suggests the establishment of a government department to guide pearl-divers.

The government should also study the feasibility of producing pearls artificially, he said.

There are still about 300 families here and on nearby islands engaged in pearling.

Mr. Rashid said the average monthly catch by a family is 5 ounces.

The pearlers still use age-old methods to search for the elusive gems, burrowing into sea-weed and sand for oysters and other shells during ebb-tide.

They then boil the shells in mud pots and separate their valves with specially designed knives to get the flesh out.

After carefully washing the flesh in a fresh-water jar, the diver is occasionally rewarded with the glimmer of a pearl hidden in its folds.

Despite the difficulties, Mrs. Khatun said she could not think of ever giving up the search.

"The pearls are white gold, and they have been part of my life for far too long," she said.

## Egypt cuts oil price

CAIRO (R) — Egypt said Monday it had decided to shave most of its crude oil export prices from Jan. 1, reflecting pressures in the surplus-laden world market for a general lowering of prices.

But the reduction announced by a spokesman of the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC) was only 50 U.S. cents off the price of benchmark Suez blend, bringing it to \$28 for a barrel.

The spokesman said only 25 cents had been taken off the price of inferior Balayim crude oil, bringing it to \$26.50, while the price of yet heavier Ras Gharib was actually raised by 25 cents, to \$24.75, apparently reflecting a more buoyant market for that type of oil.

Egypt pumps about 750,000 barrels daily of crude oil and exports about 1/3 of that, a bigger

Oil market analysts said an Egyptian cut was inevitable after the Soviet Union shaved 75 cents off prices for its Urals crude, which competes with the very similar Suez blend, earlier this month.

The Egyptians, however, have trimmed cautiously and their move may not have too much of an unsettling effect when the oil market resumes serious trading after Christmas.

OPEC's chief concern is probably still whether Britain, one of the biggest non-OPEC producers, will manage to hold current prices for North Sea crude oil in the new year, the analysts said.

At the last report, the British National Oil Corporation (BNOC) had resisted pressure for a price reduction from January.

## Share prices rise to new record high in Tokyo

TOKYO (R) — Share prices soared to a record high on the Tokyo stock exchange Monday as more signs emerged of Japan's economic recovery.

The market indicator put on 141.72 points to a closing of 3,446.57 as 620 million shares changed hands, with Japanese investors happy to see Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone leading a new Liberal Democratic Party administration in parliament.

Mr. Nakasone returned to power Monday when the Liberal Democrats stitched together a new alliance to maintain power after losing a number of seats in the election earlier this month.

Mr. Seishiro Fukazawa, a stockbroker at Nomura Securities, one of the country's largest firms, said "the main factor for the buoyancy Monday was the alliance."

However, he added "investors are becoming more confident about the Japanese economic recovery."

The market was given more evidence of the recovery when the industry ministry announced Japan's industrial production rose just over 2 per cent in November compared with October.

Also Monday came news that Japanese retail sales in November were about 4 per cent up on the same month last year, encouraging news for the government, which hopes to see a large increase in consumer spending at home next year.

Throughout most of this year the Japanese economy has been growing on the back of higher exports and Mr. Nakasone wants home demand to expand to form the bedrock of a 1984 economic revival, with higher imports meeting overseas criticism about Japan's exporting success.

The lack of overseas interest left the Tokyo foreign exchange market virtually dead in the water Monday and the dollar ended little changed from the close of trading in New York on Friday at 234.15 yen.

## Scandinavian stock markets are booming

STOCKHOLM (R) — Scandinavia's stock exchanges are booming as foreign investors are attracted by the countries' stable currencies and bargain share prices, and analysts say the upward movement is likely to continue through 1984.

The booms in Stockholm, Copenhagen, Oslo and Helsinki all reported record turnovers in the first 10 or 11 months of 1983 and share indices hit new peaks, putting the performance of all 4 among the best in the world.

Analysts say 1984 is not likely to see growth in volume and share prices at this year's explosive rates, but it should still be steady. The current boom was sparked off by changes in investment laws in 1981, and took off as foreign investors, increasingly looking to diversify their share holdings, began to believe that Scandinavian stocks were undervalued.

In Stockholm, the largest of the bourses, share prices have risen by an average 69 per cent since January, boosted by tax changes which increased the incentive for individuals to buy shares, and by a 16 per cent devaluation of the Swedish crown in October 1982, which prompted an influx from foreign investors.

Total turnover on the Stockholm exchange more than doubled to 77.38 billion crowns (\$9.5 billion) in the first 11 months of this year.

In Copenhagen, where turnover increased by over 3 times, the share price rise has tailed off recently, though only after a hectic first 8 months in which the bourse index doubled.

Danish dealers blamed the slowdown of the last few weeks on uncertainty about the future of the minority government. Prime Minister Poul Schluter earlier announced a snap general election for Jan. 10 after parliament threw out his budget.

The government's decision to lift a ban on Danes buying shares abroad from Jan. 1, 1984 also introduced a note of caution into the market, they added.

Mr. Klaus Pedersen, director of analysts Boersinformation, said the move could lead to substantial falls in some share prices as Danish investors looked to larger European markets such as London or Frankfurt, although Industry Minister Ib Sletter said he did not believe there would be a big rush for foreign shares.

The huge increase in trading has forced the Danish bourse to reconsider its quotation system, under which each share is auctioned in turn and which means sessions often last well into the evening. The bourse secretariat said a committee will be set up in the new year to examine possible changes.

A similar problem has affected Stockholm, where the system for registering bourse transactions failed in May and closed the exchange for a week.

In Oslo, turnover was boosted by the introduction of new share funds, which increased interest in shares among private investors, and by the lifting of restrictions on the amount of Norwegian shares foreigners may own.

Share turnover on the Oslo bourse rose by over 4 times to 6.34 billion Norwegian crowns (\$810 million) in the first 11 months of 1983, and the general index, set at 100 in January, peaked at 184.84 in October.

In Helsinki, total turnover for the first 11 months was 3.15 billion Finnish marks (\$540 million) compared with 2.52 billion (\$430 million) in the same period last year.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Saudi riyal deposit rates continue to slip

BAHRAIN (R) — Interest rates on large Saudi riyal deposits at offshore banks in Bahrain continued to slip following Sunday's devaluation of the riyal to 3.50 to the dollar from 3.48, dealers said. The devaluation had encouraged some banks to unwind short positions in the riyal to take profits ahead of the year end. But dealers said some banks might be inclined to continue running short of riyals in case there is another devaluation soon, possibly as early as next weekend.

#### Turkey to issue high denomination coins

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey will introduce higher denomination coins at the start of next year to keep up with inflation, the treasury announced Monday. New coins of 20, 50 and 100 lira (about 8, 18 and 36 U.S. cents) will be brought into circulation along with the existing 5 and 10 lira (2 and 4 cents) coins, it said. Turkey's high inflation rate forced the central bank to issue 10,000 and 5,000 lira (\$36 and \$18) notes a few years ago.

#### N. Yemen gets loan from Arab Fund

BAHRAIN (R) — The Abu Dhabi-based Arab Fund Sunday granted North Yemen a loan of \$29.6 million, to help offset its balance of payment deficit, the Emirates news agency (WAM) reported. The loan is repayable over 5 years in 4 instalments starting after a period of 3 1/2 years, WAM said. It carries an interest rate of 5.2 per cent in the first year, rising to 6.4 per cent to the fifth year, it said. The agency said this brought total loans to North Yemen by the fund to about \$52.5 million.

#### Guinea Bissau devalues currency

LISBON (R) — Guinea Bissau has halved the value of its currency, \$1 buying 80 pesos instead of 40, Portuguese radio reported Sunday. The peso would undergo further monthly adjustments, the radio said, quoting a broadcast in the former Portuguese colony in West Africa. Traditional exports, such as groundnuts, would still be controlled by the state. The government raised prices paid to producers of rice by 76 per cent, and of groundnuts, its principal export, by 72 per cent. The broadcast said the measures were aimed at aiding exports which amounted to only \$11 to \$14 million annually against imports worth around \$60-70 million.

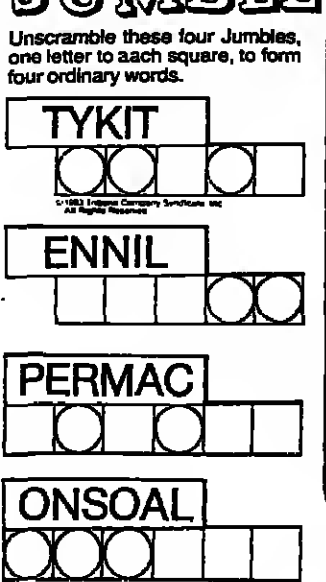
### THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



### JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Answer here: O O O O O O O O O O (Answers tomorrow)  
Saturday's Jumbles: ANNOY YIELD ECZEMA TAMPER  
Answer: The doctor practiced acupuncture on the side in order to pick up this — PIN MONEY

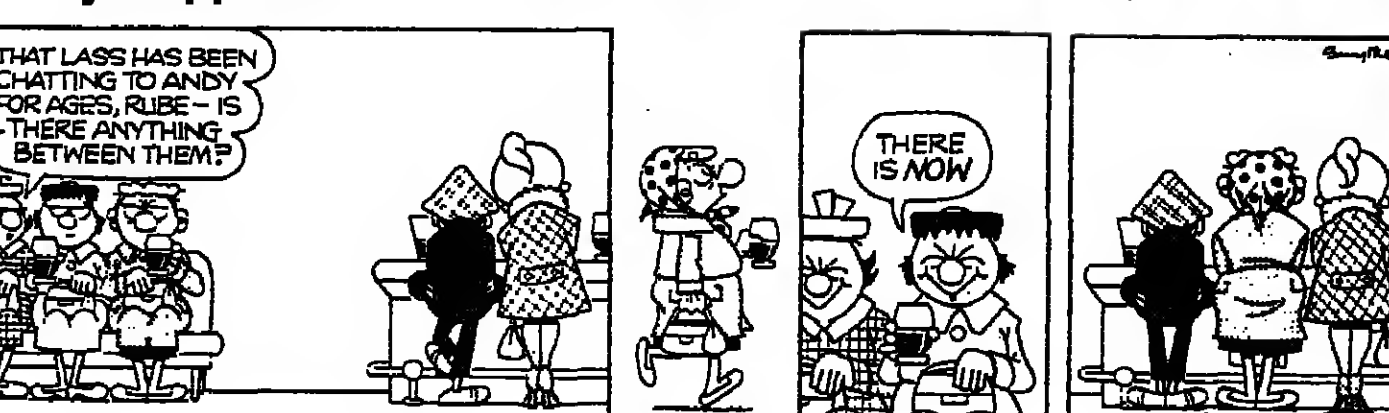
### Peanuts



### Mutt 'n' Jeff



### Andy Capp



FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1983

## YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a very interesting day since it brings you the chance to make some long-range plans early in the day. However, pace yourself so you do not defeat your purposes by being too impulsive.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Plan how to get partnership matters working well for a long time to come. Reach definite decisions and do not deviate.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Concentrate on how best to take care of problematical affairs connected with work during the new year ahead. Listen to a co-worker.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You have fine creative ideas for the days ahead that should be whittled down to the practical before presenting to bigwigs.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Get busy solving some condition at home that does not please you and bring more harmony there.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Handle tasks in such a way that you get your goals more easily. Be careful not to be too forceful with partners.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You are thinking in a practical vein and can also get your property improved. Shop around so you can stay within your budget.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Go after personal aims that will last for some time and gain them. Do whatever work is necessary. Spend evening with friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Early analyze just where you are going and how best to gain your goals in the future. Avoid arguments with loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Consider what it is that you most want and then plan how to get it. Friends should be approached tactfully at this time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Let a bigwig know what your civic goals are and gain support. Do nothing cankerous that could spoil your chances.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Become more enthusiastic about work to be done which can increase production and bring you greater benefits.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Improve your relationships with persons who are wealthy and secure and you can make your own life more satisfying.

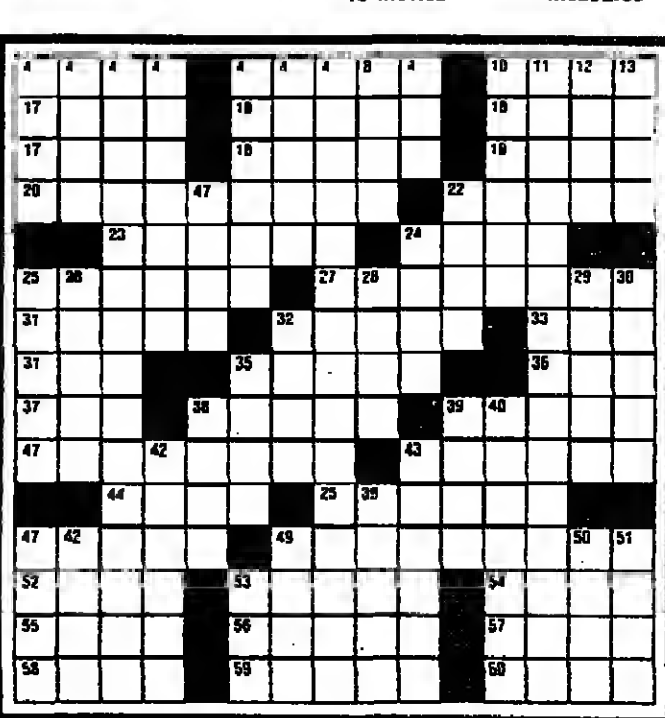
IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be exposed to all standard moral codes and accepted modes of procedure which can spell greater success in life. One who will love to study and be willing to work. Be sure your progeny does not overeat or indulge in many sweets.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

### THE Daily Crossword

by John H. Hales

ACROSS	25 Despairs	45 Ridiculous	11 O'Neill
1 Certain	27 Close at	47 Indecent	12 Auld — syne
3 "Ad — per	31 Resplendence	49 French	13 Store sign
5 "Ad — per	32 Be disdained	52 Profess	21 Contrary
10 WWII town	33 Extinct	53 Dog	22 Flutter
14 Money	34 Condescend	54 River of	24 Cherub
15 Condescend	35 Corrode	55 Negri of	25 Deputy
16 Fellow	36 Hardship	56 Pioneer's	26 Strident
17 Lily plant	37 Isle	57 Blend	28 Sounds from
18 "Marching	38 Greek city-	58 Warhol or	29 Dln
19 Lacoste of	39 Perfume,	59 Critique	30 Spud
20 Groundkeep-	40 A post	59 Receivers	31 Building
21 Pretend	41 Laureate	60 Pronoun	32 Promising
22 Starred	42 Cavalryman		33 Burning
23 observat	43 Fishing		34 Place for
24 Fish sauce	44 Boat		35 Cover a



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## WORLD

## Gandhi's party faces setback in by-elections

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's ruling Congress (I) Party has been mauled in key by-elections in two northern Indian strongholds, but emerged triumphant in polls in three other states.

With the final result from by-elections in 14 constituencies declared early the Congress (I) party took nine seats and opposition parties five.

Opposition groups and political commentators had predicted results of the polls would be a major influence on Mrs. Gandhi when she decides on a date for national elections, due sometime in the coming year.

Former Foreign Minister and right-wing opposition leader Atal Behari Vajpayee said in a speech Sunday Mrs. Gandhi was planning a general election before March and ahead of planned taxation increases in the annual budget.

But results of the polls held on Friday will give mixed signals to the 66-year-old prime minister.

They are likely to be heavily debated in the corridors of a Congress national convention starting in Calcutta Tuesday. The opposition says the gathering heralds the launching of the ruling party's election campaign.

Mrs. Gandhi, returned to power with a two-thirds majority in 1980, must hold national elections by early January 1985.

The by-elections were held in the Hindi-speaking belt of northern India, from which Mrs. Gandhi draws much of her support and which would be crucial in a general election, and the Marxist-ruled state of West Bengal.

While Mrs. Gandhi's party scored two morale-boosting wins against the Communists in West Bengal and notched up significant victories in the states of Haryana and Bihar, it was badly beaten in four out of six seats at stake in its traditional stronghold of Uttar Pradesh.

The elections were for three seats in the national parliament in Delhi and 11 in local state assemblies.

Congress won only one of the three parliamentary seats, losing to the pro-Soviet Communist Party of India (CPI) in Bihar and to the Janata Party in Uttar Pradesh.

The Indian express newspaper predicted a major Congress party shake-up in Uttar Pradesh following the severe setbacks there and said it would be no surprise if state Chief Minister Shripati Mishra was sacked.

The Hindi belt plays a pivotal role in Indian politics. Of the country's 22 states, the four northern ones of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar command 189 seats in the 544-member lower house of parliament.

Uttar Pradesh alone commands 85 seats and is an indicator of electoral feeling. No Indian prime minister since independence in 1947 has secured power without doing well in Uttar Pradesh, which lies along the Ganges River and has a population of some 95 million.

India's opposition remains divided but two non-Communist alliances have been formed in anticipation of national polls.

Janata, the rump of the coalition that ousted Mrs. Gandhi in 1977 and ruled until 1980, is the core of one of the groupings. The other is composed of the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the country-based Lok Dal (People's Party).

The BJP, fighting in an area of traditional support, appeared to be the main loser. It won none of the seats it contested. A surprise winner was the Rashtriya Sanjay Manch party of Maneka Gandhi, which took an assembly seat in Uttar Pradesh.

Maneka, estranged daughter-in-law of the prime minister, is a perpetual thorn in Mrs. Gandhi's side and has formed her own fledgling party. She has promised to stand against Mrs. Gandhi's politician son Rajiv Gandhi in national elections.

In an editorial Monday, the Congress newspaper the National Herald hailed the elections as a success for the Congress and underlined the Communist defeat in West Bengal.

But the Times of India said the defeat of a Muslim Congress candidate in the Uttar Pradesh parliamentary election put into question this minority group's traditional support for the Congress.

Mrs. Gandhi has recently been wooing Hindu organisations and this has apparently worried the Muslims.



Indira Gandhi

## Spain pays tribute to Catalan painter

MADRID (R) — Spain Monday paid tribute to Catalan painter Joan Miro, one of the most innovative and best-known artists of the century, who died Sunday aged 90 at his home on the Mediterranean island of Majorca.

Relatives said the painter, who was born on April 20, 1893, in Barcelona, died peacefully in his sleep.

Miro won international fame for his distinctive style of brightly-coloured blobs and squiggles and like fellow Catalan artist Salvador Dali, who survives him, was a leading figure of the surrealist movement formed in Paris in the 1920s.

Artists and intellectuals paid tribute to Miro's work as preparations were made for burial this week in Barcelona, the Catalan regional capital, in accordance with his wishes.

Spanish poet Rafael Alberti, 81, who is also known for his links with the surrealist movement, told reporters Miro's death was a huge loss to art and culture. "He was a hero of 20th century painting," Mr. Alberti said.

Miro's death means 79-year-old Dali, who has been in poor health because of his age, is one of the last and most important surviving members of the surrealist group.

A friend said Dali was grieved at the news of the death. Miro had been unwell for the

past two years and in 1982 had a heart pacemaker inserted and underwent surgery for the removal of cataracts from both eyes.

A supporter of the left-wing republic crushed by Gen. Francisco Franco in the 1936-39 Spanish civil war, Miro lived under Franco's dictatorship as a semi-recluse in his adopted island home of Majorca.

Feted as a national figure after Franco's death in 1975, his murals and sculptures adorn several public buildings in Spain and have been viewed in exhibitions around the world.

But Miro remained fiercely proud of his Catalan roots and relatives said he had asked for the

Catalan language to be used instead of Spanish at his burial ceremony.

Earlier this year, Barcelona's city council organised an international homage to celebrate his 90th birthday, which was followed later by an exhibition of his work in Madrid.

King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia have sent a message of condolence to Miro's widow, Pilar, and his daughter, Dolores.

As a man, Miro was known to be quiet and reserved but his enigmatic and dream-like creations enchanted many art lovers.

"I never dream when I'm sleeping, only when I'm awake," he once said.

## U.S. freezes through Xmas

NEW YORK (R) — The United States shivered through one of the coldest Christmases on record with more than 125 low temperature marks broken in what National Weather Service officials said may be the coldest snap of the century.

From the Pacific Northwest to southern Florida, normally a refuge from the winter cold, and from the great lakes in the north to Texas in the south, the mercury plummeted, threatening citrus crops, stranding travellers and disrupting holiday plans.

Records for the day that had stood for more than 100 years were shattered. Some 150 deaths, mostly traffic related, have been attributed to the cold wave which began on Dec. 17.

The Christmas day low was reported to be 39 degrees below zero Fahrenheit (—39.4° Centigrade) in Havre, Montana.

In Washington, D.C., it was the coldest Christmas day on record with a low of three degrees (—16° C).

"This may be the coldest snap of the century," a National Weather Service official in Kansas City told reporters.

Citrus growers in Florida predicted substantial damage to the multi-million dollar citrus crop as temperatures sank as low as 16 degrees (—9° C).

Temperatures well below freezing were forecast for most of Florida overnight.

Texas, too, remained in the grip of the Arctic front, with record low temperatures threatening to devastate the \$100-million-a-year citrus industry in the lower Rio Grande Valley.

"If it keeps up like this, we're going to have a major disaster," industry spokesman said.

With temperatures rising no higher than the teens in much of the Sun belt state, many cities, including Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth and San Antonio, urged residents to take conservation measures.

In Atlanta, high winds blew down power lines, leaving 15,000 people without electricity on Christmas morning.

In Oregon in the northwest, temperatures plunged to 30 degrees below zero (—34.4° C), killing hundreds of thousands of salmon in the frozen ponds of the state fish hatchery, according to the State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Police in Minnesota reported motels in some places were filled with drivers unable to continue because blowing snow cut visibility to near zero.

In Chicago, where a 25 below zero (—31° C) temperature was the coldest ever recorded in the city on a Christmas eve, temperatures hovered around zero (—17° C) on Christmas day.

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## All good Swims love cow bells

ADLIGENSWIL, Switzerland (R) — A Czechoslovak has been refused Swiss citizenship because he does not like cow bells.

Vit Stupka's application was turned down at a village meeting on the grounds that his sympathy with residents complaining about noise from the bells showed he was not properly assimilated, a participant told Reuters.

Stupka, who has lived in Switzerland for 14 years, provided measuring instruments when protesters won a court order in 1981 obliging farmer Leo Schmidli to move his cows further away from dwellings during the night.

WWF takes up rare monkeys' case

GLAND, Switzerland (R) — The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) called for a commitment to rare monkeys which it said were illegally exported to Belgium to be returned to their habitat in Brazil.

The WWF said 29 tiny golden-headed lion tamarins monkeys had been smuggled out of Brazil, where scientists estimate fewer than 100 still survive in a small patch of coastal rain forest in the southeast of the country.

The monkeys were taken first to neighbouring Bolivia, and then illegally exported to Belgium, where a WWF representative saw 24 of them at a wildlife dealer's last week, the WWF said.

Australia to study Vietnam hangovers

SYDNEY (R) — A major health study on Australian servicemen is to be carried out as part of an official inquiry into the effect of chemical agents on troops during the Vietnam war, the inquiry's spokesman said.

The study will investigate the physical and mental health of about 5,000 national servicemen, including 3,000 Vietnam veterans, according to John Coombs, senior counsel assisting the royal commission.

Some 40,000 Australians served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1972. The study was announced after consultations with a panel of scientific experts probing the effects of chemical agent orange in Vietnam.

China claims having 3,765 centenarians

PEKING (R) — China has 3,765 centenarians among its one billion population, of whom the oldest is a man aged 130, the national census office said.

It said 36 Chinese are aged between 120 and 130, and named the oldest of them as Kurban Yasheng, a member of a Turkic minority in the vast Xinjiang region of Central Asia. Some 2,600 of the centenarians are women, the office said.

China raises fund to save the panda

GLAND, Switzerland (R) — China is to raise funds worldwide to save the giant panda, considered a national treasure, from extinction, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) said.

WWF said a new wildlife conservation association, announced in Peking would seek voluntary contributions to save China's 1,000 pandas from starvation. They are threatened because bamboo plants, their staple food, are dying off.

The black-and-white animal, found in west China, is the official emblem of the WWF, symbolising endangered animal species throughout the world.

Singapore schools to use English

SINGAPORE (R) — English will become the sole teaching medium in Singapore schools in the next three years, the government announced.

Education Secretary Goh Kim Leong said the policy shift was in view of dwindling enrolment in non-English medium schools in the past several years.

Ethnic Chinese make up nearly 77 per cent of Singapore's 2.5 million population with Malays accounting for about 15 per cent and the rest from the Indian subcontinent. Malayalam was dropped as a teaching language in 1976, Tamil in 1982 and for the new academic year starting next month, less than one per cent of primary one pupils have opted for Chinese, Mr. Goh said.

## Police name 4 slain Zimbabweans

HARARE (R) — Police Monday named four members of a white family killed by rebels last week in Zimbabwe's troubled southwestern province of Matabeleland.

They were Charles Loxton, his wife Rosemary Anne, their 20-year-old daughter Julie and Loxton's brother, Anthony William Loxton.

A police spokesman said operations against the dissidents were continuing.

The government accuses the dissidents, who it says are former guerrillas of Joshua Nkomo in the war against white rule, of murdering at least 100 people in Matabeleland in the last 22 months.

Mr. Nkomo, whose power base is Matabeleland, denies the charge.

## Police blame IRA for London blast

LONDON (R) — A Christmas day bomb which slightly injured two passers-by in central London was probably the work of guerrillas fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland, police said.

The head of the anti-terrorist squad, Commander Bill Huckleby, told reporters Sunday night the blast in a litter bin off Oxford Street was a clear warning to shoppers planning to visit London for the traditional post-Christmas sales.

"The indications are that this is a continuation of the series of bombs we have had," he said.

No-one claimed responsibility for Sunday's blast, which injured two men window-shopping at stores closed for the Christmas holidays.

Police cordoned off the area to search hundreds of shops.

## Nakasone gets back his job

TOKYO (R) — Japan's parliament voted Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone back into office Monday after his ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) patched together alliances to shore up its grip on power.

Pro-Western Nakasone was re-elected when parliament reconvened after the LDP boosted its effective strength to 267 seats in the 511-member House of Representatives.

The LDP, left holding a thin majority after its bruising setback in the Dec. 18 general elections, enlisted the support of splinter conservative group and independents to secure Mr. Nakasone's safe return.

The LDP won only 250 seats in the elections but secured a small majority by quickly recruiting new independents.

Earlier Monday it forged an alliance with the eight-seat New Liberal Club (NLC) to give it 267 seats — guaranteeing control of the key house budget committee and 14 other panels among the 18 standing house committees.

Mr. Nakasone won 265 of the 509 votes cast in the house ballot for prime minister. Two members were absent.

The deal with the NLC prompted speculation that Mr. Nakasone will appoint a member of the party to his new administration.

The minister, speaking at a weekend press conference in Luanda, said the Angolan armed forces

## Pope appeals for an end to hunger

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul II wished the world a happy Christmas in 44 languages Sunday and urged that money spent on weapons be diverted to eradicating the "unspeakable sorrow" of hunger.

John Paul made the appeal in his twice-yearly "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world) message before some 35,000 people in St. Peter's Square.

Speaking in the form of a prayer, John Paul asked God to look upon the men and women who are dying of hunger, while enormous sums are being spent on weapons.

He said: "Look upon the unspeakable sorrow of parents witnessing the agony of their children, imploring them for bread they do not have, but which could be obtained with even a tiny part of the sums poured out on sophisticated means of destruction."

He said the cry of peace rising from people martyred by war was a call to all humanity to seek fair solutions to conflicts through negotiations and dialogue.

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